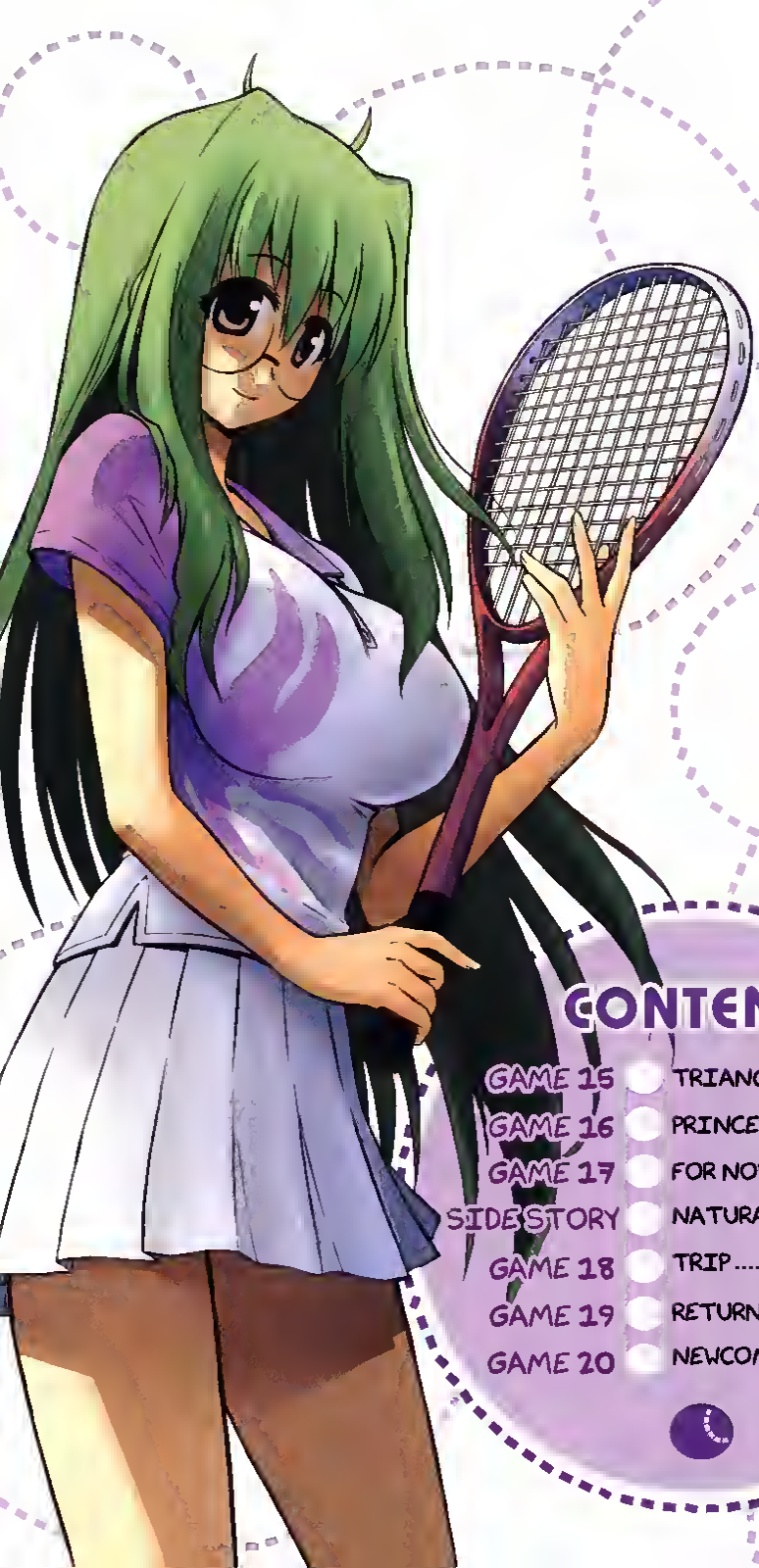
RYO ADUCHI PRES
3
あづち涼

SOFTEN
3



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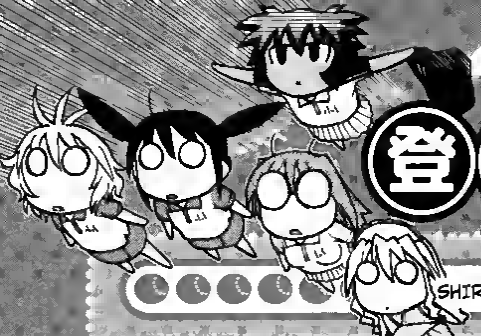


登場人物紹介

CHARACTER INTRODUCTIONS

SHIRATAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS SOFT TENNIS CLUB

SECOND YEAR. LIFE GOAL IS TO BE A LADY PANTHER.

SECOND YEAR. HOT-BLOODED KARATE GIRL. LOVES MISSHI.

THIRD YEAR. CLUB PRESIDENT HOPELESSLY INCOMPETENT AT TENNIS.

FIRST YEAR. SEEMS LIKE A GENIUS, THE ROOKIE OF MANY MYSTERIES.

SECOND YEAR. FOREIGN-EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM ENGLAND. LOVES MISSHI.

CLUB ADVISOR. A LITTLE SLAP-DASH, BUT USED TO BE AN INCREDIBLE PLAYER.

AKATAMA MIDDLE-SCHOOL GIRLS SOFT TENNIS CLUB

FIRST YEAR MALE TEAM MANAGER. GENIUS CHIROPRACTOR.

SECOND YEAR. AKATAMA CLUB PRESIDENT. SHARP-TONGUED BRAINY TYPE.

SECOND YEAR. HOT-BLOODED LIKE KOTONE.

SECOND YEAR HER LACK OF DEFINING TRAITS IS HER DEFINING TRAIT

SECOND YEAR. TALL. DREAMS OF BECOMING AN ACTRESS.

SECOND YEAR CHEEKY NEW MEMBER IN CHARGE OF BABYSITTING AZUSA.

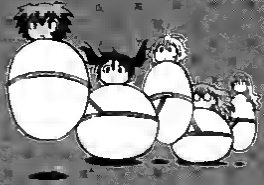
FIRST YEAR. VIEWS KURUSU AS A RIVAL.

KUROTAMA MIDDLE-SCHOOL GIRLS SOFT TENNIS CLUB

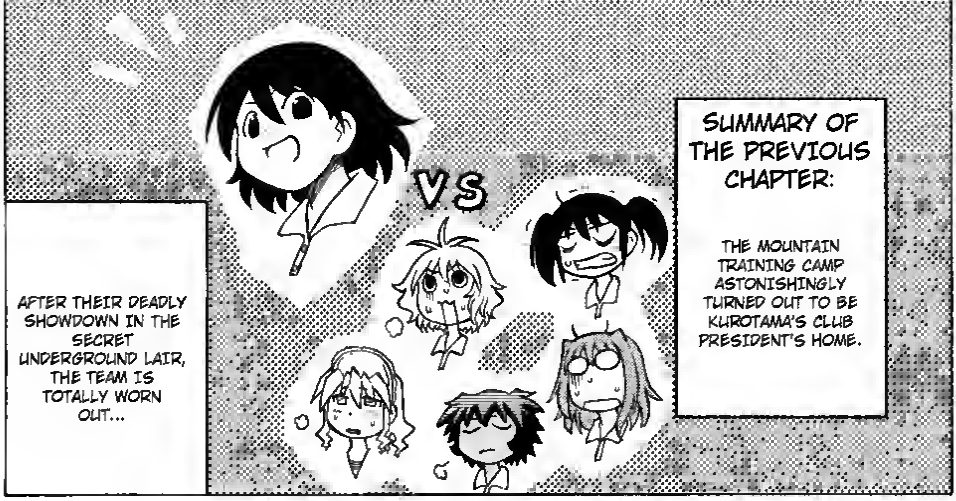
FIRST YEAR. KUROTAMA'S INTELLIGENCE OFFICER?

THIRD YEAR. KUROTAMA CLUB PRESIDENT. HER FAMILY OWNS A MOUNTAIN. NATIONAL CHAMPION IN SINGLES.

AFTER THE BLONDE FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT ELIZABETH JOINED THE SHIRATAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFT-TENNIS CLUB, THEIR INCREDIBLE LOSS IN THE PRACTICE MATCH AGAINST AKATAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL, THEIR BATTLE AGAINST A WILD BEAR WHILE HEADING TO A TRAINING CAMP IN THE MOUNTAINS, DISCOVERING THE MOUNTAIN TRAINING CAMP WAS ACTUALLY KUROTAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL'S CLUB PRESIDENT SHIDOU MISAKI'S HOUSE AND SHE HAD ALREADY CRUSHED THE AKATAMA GIRLS, OUR HEROES ARE CURRENTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF A HELLISH TRAINING SESSION WITH MISAKI AT THE CAMP IN THE MOUNTAINS.



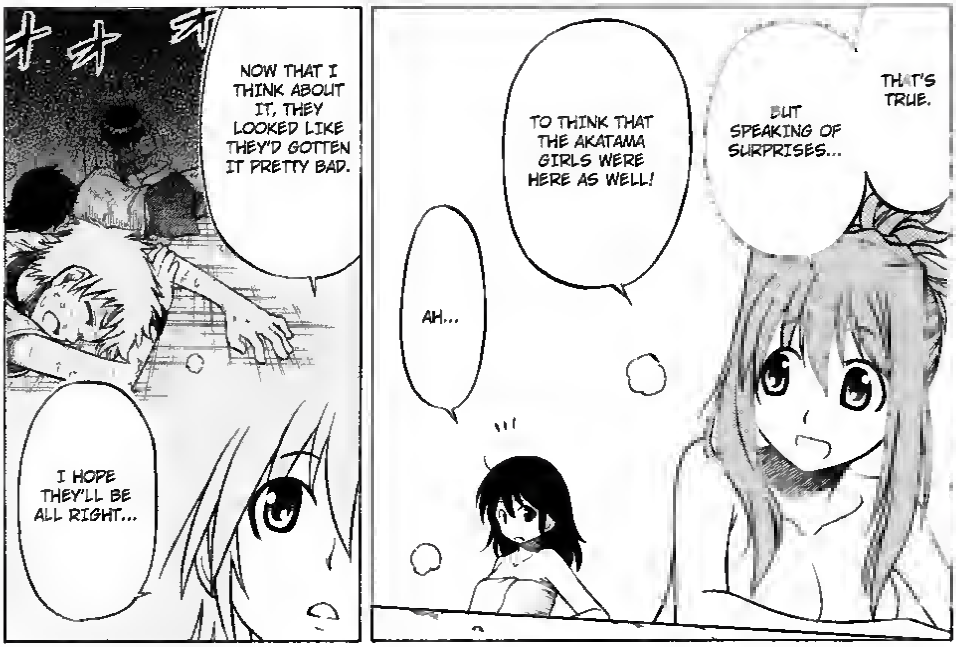
第15ゲーム さんかくっ
GAME 15 - TRIANGLE

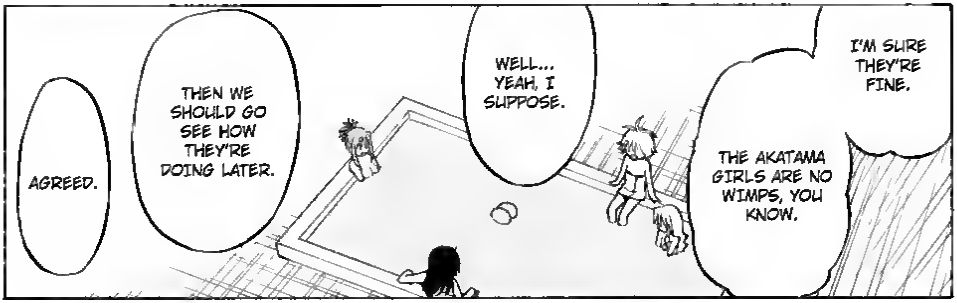

VS
SUMMARY OF THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER:
THE MOUNTAIN TRAINING CAMP ASTONISHINGLY TURNED OUT TO BE KUROTAMA'S CLUB PRESIDENT'S HOME.
AFTER THEIR DEADLY SHOWDOWN IN THE SECRET UNDERGROUND LAIR, THE TEAM IS TOTALLY WORN OUT...

EVEN THIS BATH IS DOING NOTHING FOR MY EXHAUSTION ...
AND COME ON, WHO HOLDS A TRAINING CAMP AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPION'S HOUSE? REALLY?
IT WAS QUITE A SURPRISE ...
AHA HA.
MISHIMAGI-SENSEI SURE LOVES THIS SORT OF THING, DOESN'T HE?

THAT EVENING...

JEEZ...


NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THEY LOOKED LIKE THEY'D GOTTEN IT PRETTY BAD.
I HOPE THEY'LL BE ALL RIGHT...
TO THINK THAT THE AKATAMA GIRLS WERE HERE AS WELL!
AH...
BUT SPEAKING OF SURPRISES...
THAT'S TRUE.


AGREED.
THEN WE SHOULD GO SEE HOW THEY'RE DOING LATER.
WELL... YEAH, I SUPPOSE.
THE AKATAMA GIRLS ARE NO WIMPS, YOU KNOW.
I'M SURE THEY'RE FINE.

HEY, YOU LOT.
!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
LET'S GET DOWN TO THE DINING HALL.
IT'S CHOW TIME
♪ SHIDOU'S CALLING

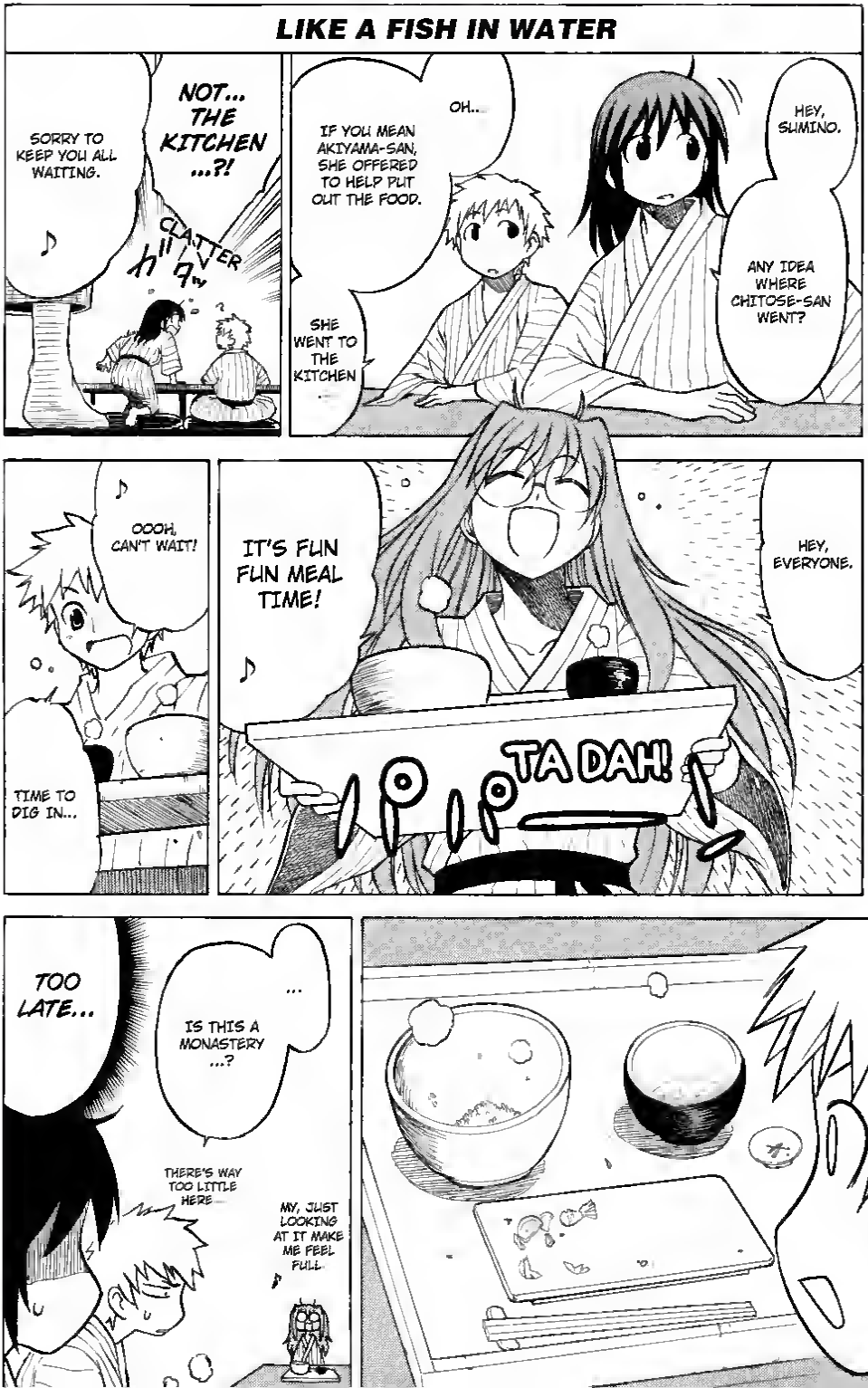
A-ANYWAY, IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT SO...
THAT'S RIGHT.

HUH?
HMM .. YEAH, WELL... YOU KNOW.
SUMINO . .
FOOD...? YOU MEAN YOU'RE ALL RECOVERED...?

YOU ALL HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT..
SCUFF
?!

UH. Y'THINK?
IT'S JUST THE SHINE OF YOUTH.
COME TO THINK OF IT, AREN'T YOU ALL KIND OF GLOWING...?
HARD TO BELIEVE..
YOU WERE ON THE VERGE OF DEATH EARLIER.
YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING IT!

I WILL CONTINUE TO MASSAGE YOU.
FOR AS LONG AS THESE HANDS OF MINE CAN MOVE...
WELL... YOU KNOW...
WHAT DID YOU BRING HIM FOR?!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT!!
...
LE...
LEO ...?
WHAT'S THIS?
HEY, IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING SO GOOD THERE'S NO NEED TO PUSH YOURSELVES TO EAT, YOU KNOW?
...
NO, WE'RE ALL IN GREAT SHAPE.
♪
テカ
テカ

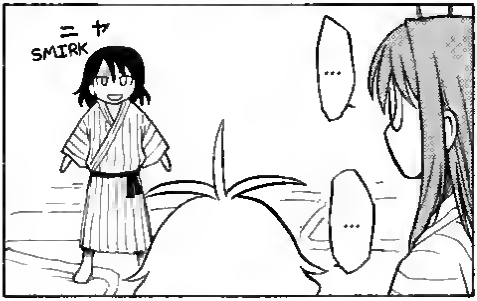

LIKE A FISH IN WATER
SORRY TO KEEP YOU ALL WAITING.
♪
NOT... THE KITCHEN ...?!
CLATTER
HEY, SUMINO.
ANY IDEA WHERE CHITOSE-SAN WENT?
OH...
IF YOU MEAN AKIYAMA-SAN, SHE OFFERED TO HELP PUT OUT THE FOOD.
SHE WENT TO THE KITCHEN
♪
OOOH, CAN'T WAIT!
TIME TO DIG IN...
IT'S FUN FUN MEAL TIME!
♪
HEY, EVERYONE.
TA DAH!
TOO LATE...
...
IS THIS A MONASTERY ...?
THERE'S WAY TOO LITTLE HERE—
MY, JUST LOOKING AT IT MAKE ME FEEL FULL
♪

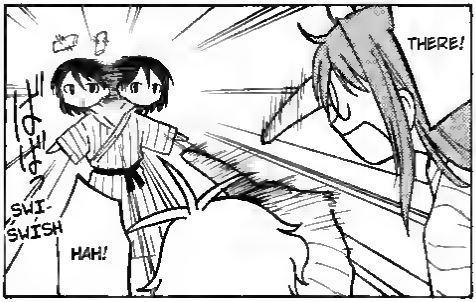
BULL'S-EYE NYANTAROU
I HAD THEM PREPARED WHILE WE WERE EATING.
HUH?
THE FUTONS ARE ALREADY LAID OUT.
♪
WOOOOW.
HEY, IS THIS ONE YOURS, SHIDOU...?
OF...
OF COURSE NOT!!!
YIKES.
THAT'S NIGHTMARE FODDER RIGHT HERE.
SERIOUSLY.
UMM... ONE OF THEM IS PRETTY CHILDISH, THOUGH...
FUTON: BULL'S-EYE! NYANTAROU
NYAATHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
FORGIVE ME, NYANTAROU.
I JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE MY DIGNITY AS THE NATIONAL CHAMP!
あ WAAA AAH! ん
ヒ SSSHUP ャ...
...
I JUST MADE A MISTAKE AND PUT OUT A KIDS FUTON AS WELL.
I'LL GO GET A NEW ONE.
ガラ.. SSSHWAP
HONESTLY.
NAH, OF COURSE IT COULDN'T BE
WELL, YEAH

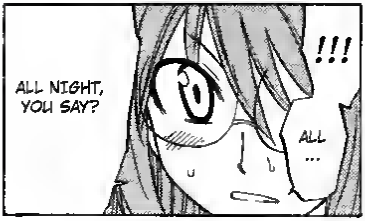
WHAT IS IT?
HEY, KOTONE.
LET'S PLAY CARDS.
WHAT WAS IT...?
I KEEP GETTING THE FEELING WE'RE FORGETTING TO DO SOMETHING.
IT'S BOTHERING ME.
AH...
OH YEAH...?
THAT'S ROUGH.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING SO DOWN FOR, KOTONE-CHAN?
WE'LL DO A 24-HOUR ENDURANCE MATCH OF JENGA...
OKAY, I'VE GOT IT.
IT WASN'T UNO EITHER...
HOW ABOUT A GAME OF UNO INSTEAD?
HEY.
IT WASN'T CARDS...
AH, SHE LOOKS STRANGELY RELIEVED...
YOU JERK!
HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!
I'M TRYING TO THINK HERE!!
YOU WOULDN'T RESPOND!!
SQUABBLE
ぎゃー
ぎゃー
SQUABBLE
ズ!P
WHACH!
HEY!
LISTEN TO ME, DAMMIT!
ふぃん
FLING
...

BETTER GET READY, MISAKI-SAN!
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME TO TAKE REVENGE FOR THIS AFTERNOON!!!
BAM

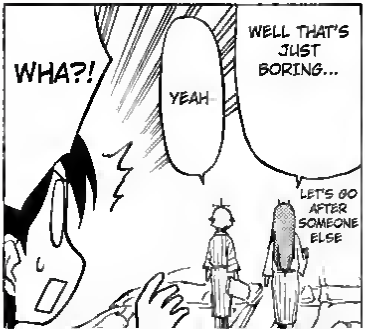
WAAH!
WHEE!


SMIRK
...
...


THERE!
SWI-SWISH
HAH!

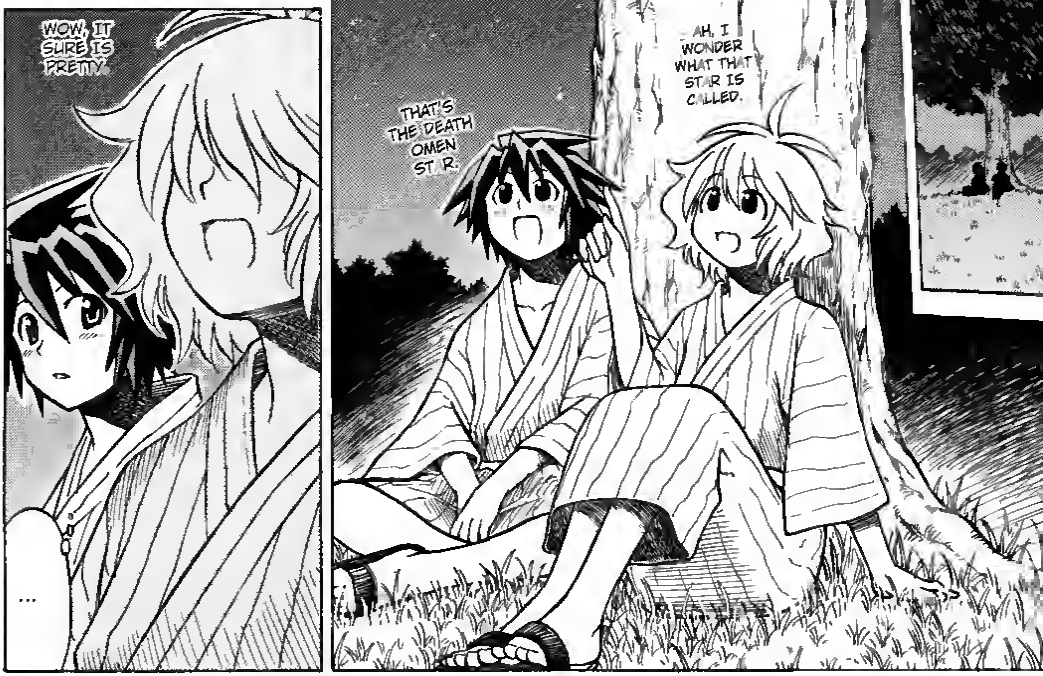

ALL NIGHT, YOU SAY?
!!!
ALL ...

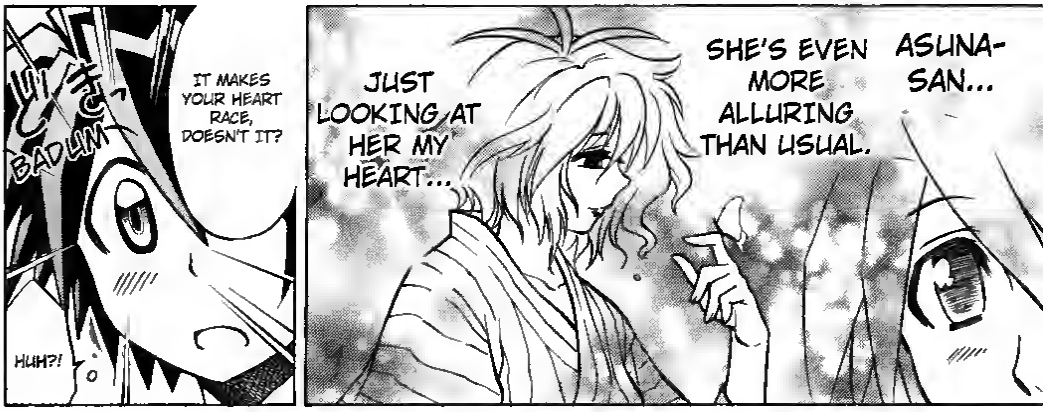
HAH!
THERE!
EASY PEASY!
YOU COULD KEEP THIS UP ALL NIGHT AND YOU'D NEVER HIT ME.
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH


WHA?!
YEAH
WELL THAT'S JUST BORING...
LET'S GO AFTER SOMEONE ELSE

TOTAL BEATDOWN
YOU DUMMY. WHAT'RE YOU AIMING AT?
WHOOSH
PIRO PIRO PIROOOO!!!
ALL RIGHT, TAKE THIS, THE ULTIMATE...
GRRK
LIGHTNING RISING...
BETTER TAKE ANOTHER LOOK.
THINK AGAIN!
WHA... SAY WHAT?!
HIGASP
NOW! CONCENTRATED FIRE!!
MURGH
GLOMP
WHOOSH

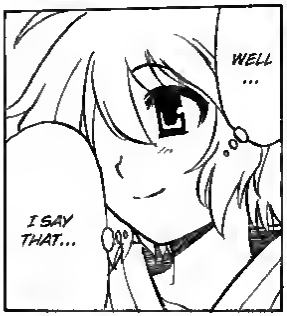
BENEATH THE SHINING STARS
HEY, LEO-KUN.
WANT TO GO FOR A WALK OUTSIDE?
OH... BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO...
I... I'LL GO WITH YOU!!!
EVEN TO THE VERY ENDS OF THE EARTH.
LA LA!
LA-LAH! ♪
A-ASUNA-SAN, IT'S DANGEROUS TO RUN LIKE THAT.
I'LL BE FINE.
I HAVE YOU WITH ME LEO. ♪

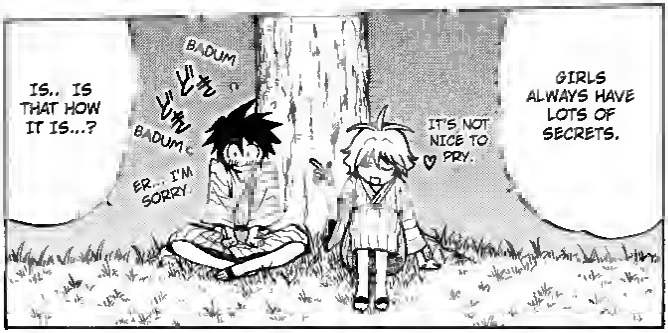

WOW, IT SURE IS PRETTY.
...
AH, I WONDER WHAT THAT STAR IS CALLED.
THAT'S THE DEATH OMEN STAR.


IT MAKES YOUR HEART RACE, DOESN'T IT?
BADUM
HUH?!
ASUNA-SAN...
SHE'S EVEN MORE ALLURING THAN USUAL.
JUST LOOKING AT HER MY HEART...

UMM... WELL...
DID YOU CATCH A COLD...?
OR WAS IT...?
IS... IS THAT SO?
I WONDER IF ALL FIELD TRIPS ARE LIKE THIS?
I COULD NEVER GO DURING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
HAVING A GOOD TIME WITH EVERYONE LIKE THIS.
OH, THAT

THAT'S A SECRET.

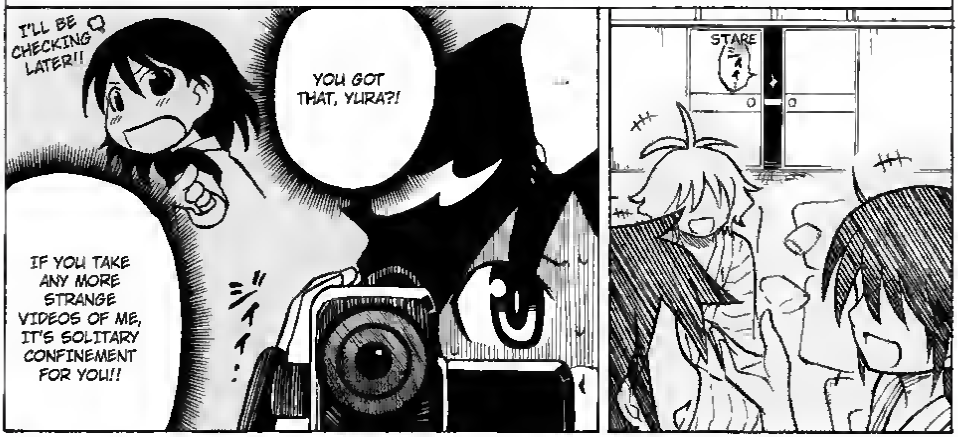

WELL ...
I SAY THAT...


IS.. IS THAT HOW IT IS...?
BADUM
BADUM
ER... I'M SORRY.
IT'S NOT NICE TO PRY.
GIRLS ALWAYS HAVE LOTS OF SECRETS.

HOW YOUNG I WAS BACK THEN...
NOW I DO IT THREE TIMES A NIGHT
PHEW

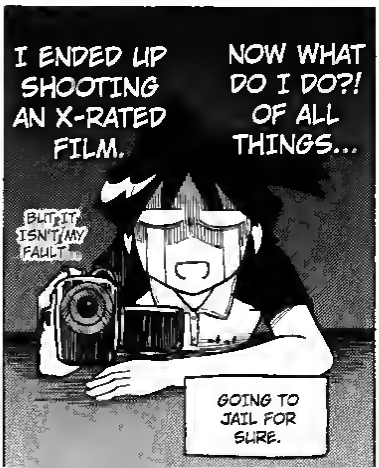
BUT ACTUALLY, WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT GOING INTO THE BATH WITH EVERYONE...
...MY NOSE WOULDN'T STOP BLEEDING. THAT WAS ALL.
HUFF HUFF
AIASUNA!

SPY DE ENNUI


I'LL BE CHECKING LATER!!
YOU GOT THAT, YURA?!
IF YOU TAKE ANY MORE STRANGE VIDEOS OF ME, IT'S SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR YOU!!
ジィィ!
STARE

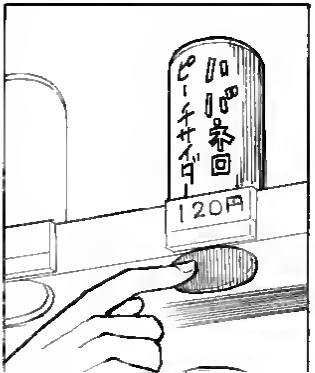
EEK!
!!!
I'LL HAVE TO GET SERIOUS THIS TIME
I JUST WANT TO TAKE VIDEOS OF THE PRESIDENT BUT...
WELL, I'D RATHER NOT BE LOCKED UP.
STARE

...
SHUT UP, YOU!
YOU SURE ARE CLUMSY


I ENDED UP SHOOTING AN X-RATED FILM.
NOW WHAT DO I DO?! OF ALL THINGS...
BUT IT ISN'T MY FAULT
GOING TO JAIL FOR SURE.

MURGH...
WHAT'S THIS BANANA PEEL DOING HERE...?
OUCH...

SUDDEN EMOTION



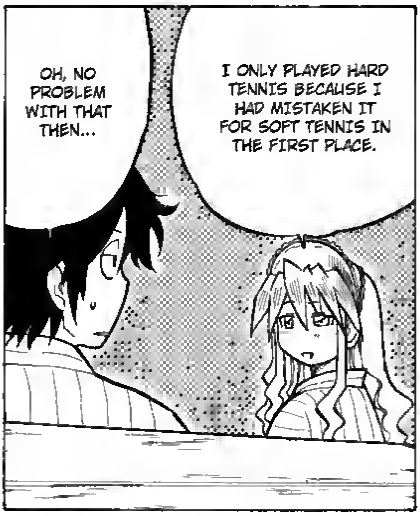
CAN: HABANERO PEACH CIDER

MACHINE: 120 YEN

WHAT WERE YOUR RESULTS LIKE?
YOU WERE PLAYING HARD TENNIS IN ENGLAND, WEREN'T YOU?
MY RESULTS?
BY THE WAY, ELLIE.
WELL...
I DID PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT...
NA...
NATIONAL TOURNAMENT?!
1
NOT AT ALL...
SWITCHING OVER TO SOFT TENNIS...
...WHEN YOU'VE GOT SO MUCH ABILITY?
I SEE...
THEN DOESN'T IT FEEL LIKE A BIT OF A WASTE...?

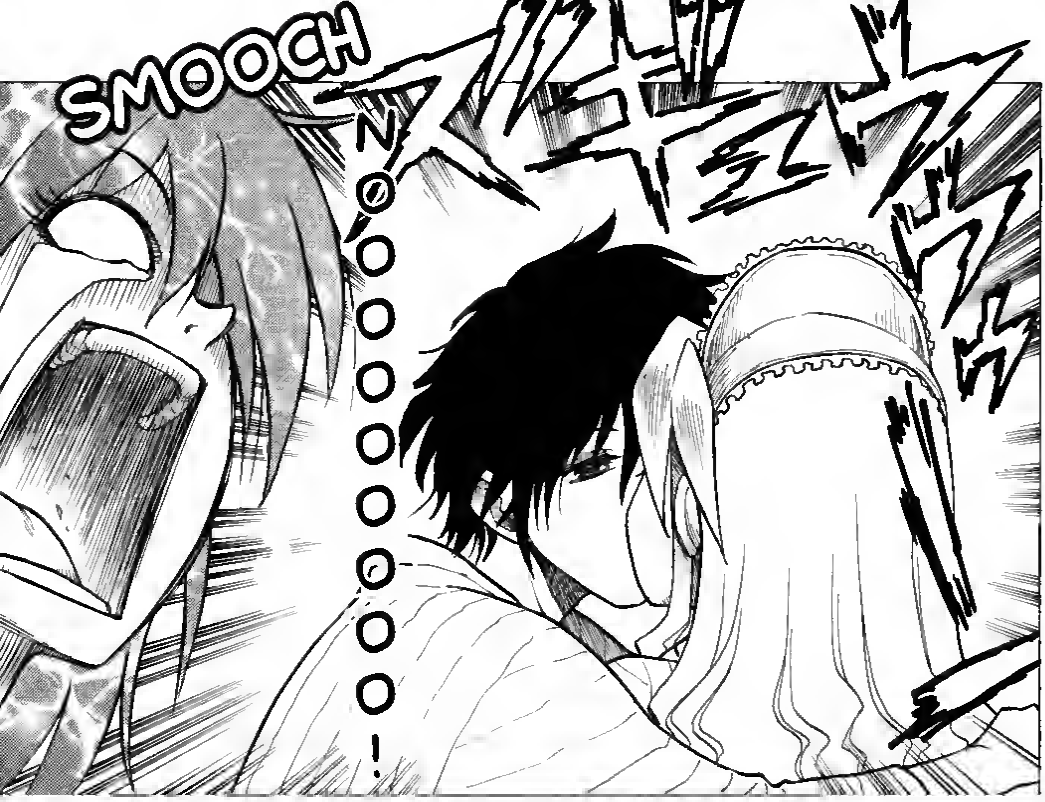
TO ME, THE TIME I WAS AWAY FROM YOU, MISSHI...
THAT WAS BY FAR...
...A BIGGER WASTE.

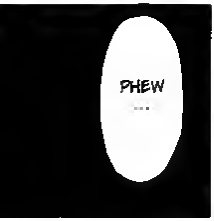
BESIDES, YOU KNOW...
BUT STILL...

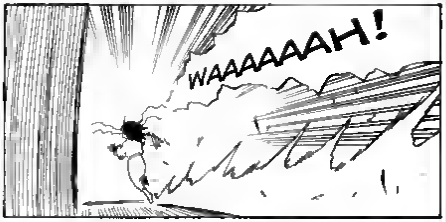

OH, NO PROBLEM WITH THAT THEN...
I ONLY PLAYED HARD TENNIS BECAUSE I HAD MISTAKEN IT FOR SOFT TENNIS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

NOW THAT I AM WITH MISSHI...
...I AM VERY HAPPY.

WITNESS
PERK
HUH...?
COULD THOSE VOICES BE...?
BATHROOM, BATHROOM...
ERGH!
TUP
TUP
TUP
!!!
AHHH!
EH...?!
NO... WAI--!
NO...!
!!!
A... A LOVER'S RENDEZ-VOUS?
IS THAT IT?!
WHAT ARE THE TWO OF THEM DOING ALONE TOGETHER...?
CRACK


SMOOCH
NOOOOOOOOOO!


PHEW
...

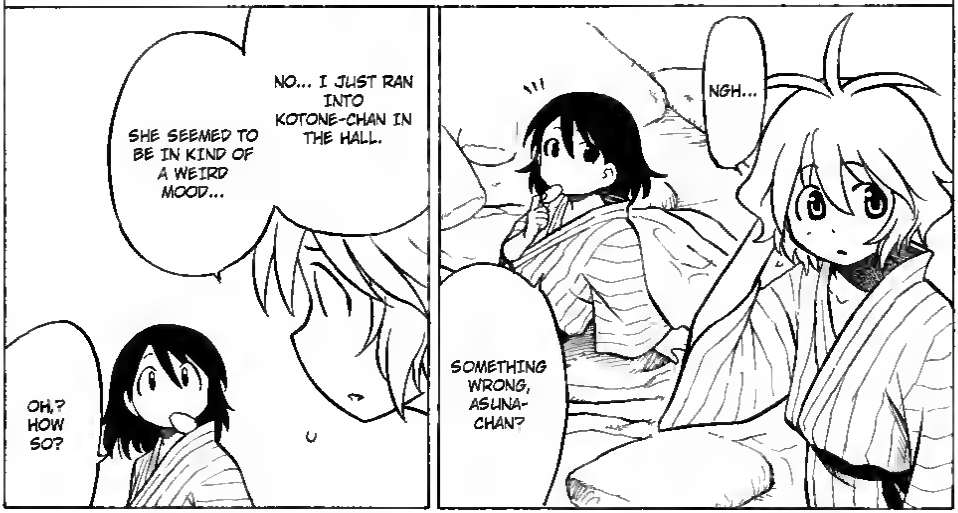

WAAAAAAH!

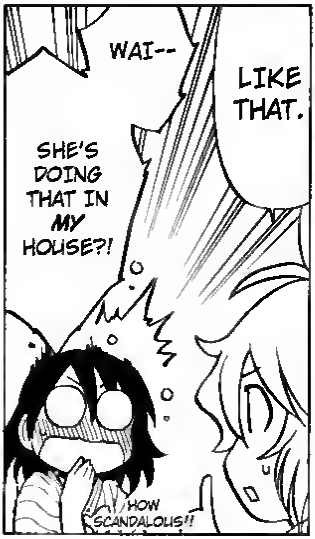
IT... IT CAN'T BE...
THEY'VE ALREADY...
...GOTTEN THAT FAR...?!
SO... WAVER
URGH...

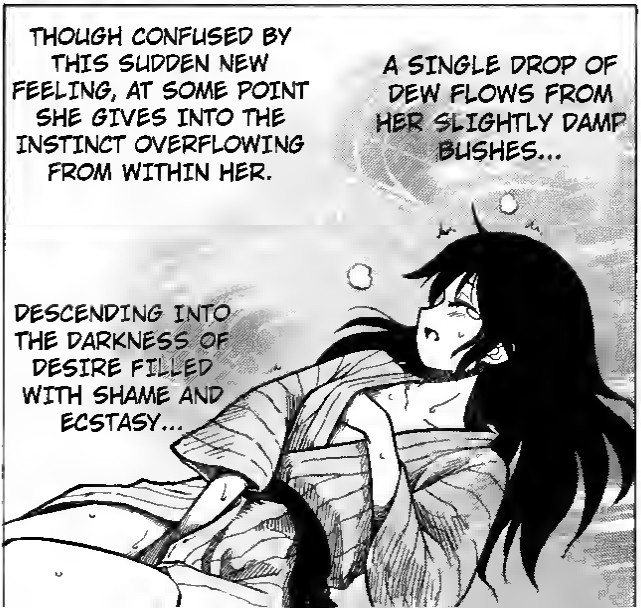
GOT IT, ELLIE.
NOT SURE HOW...
BUT THERE WAS A CIVET CAT ATTACHED TO YOUR EYELASHES.
I HAD NO IDEA.
WOW
HHH-HOW ODD.

THOSE WHO WANDER THE DARKNESS
OH...
IT'S JUST KOTONE-CHAN.
GASHUNK
カッーン
GASHUNK
カッーン
ビクッ
AH.
DID YOU BRUSH YOUR TEETH YET KOTONE?
YOU KNOW IT'S PRETTY DARK AROUND HERE SO IT GETS A LITTLE SCARY ..
...
GASHUNK
カッーン
GASHUNK
カッーン
NOT YET..

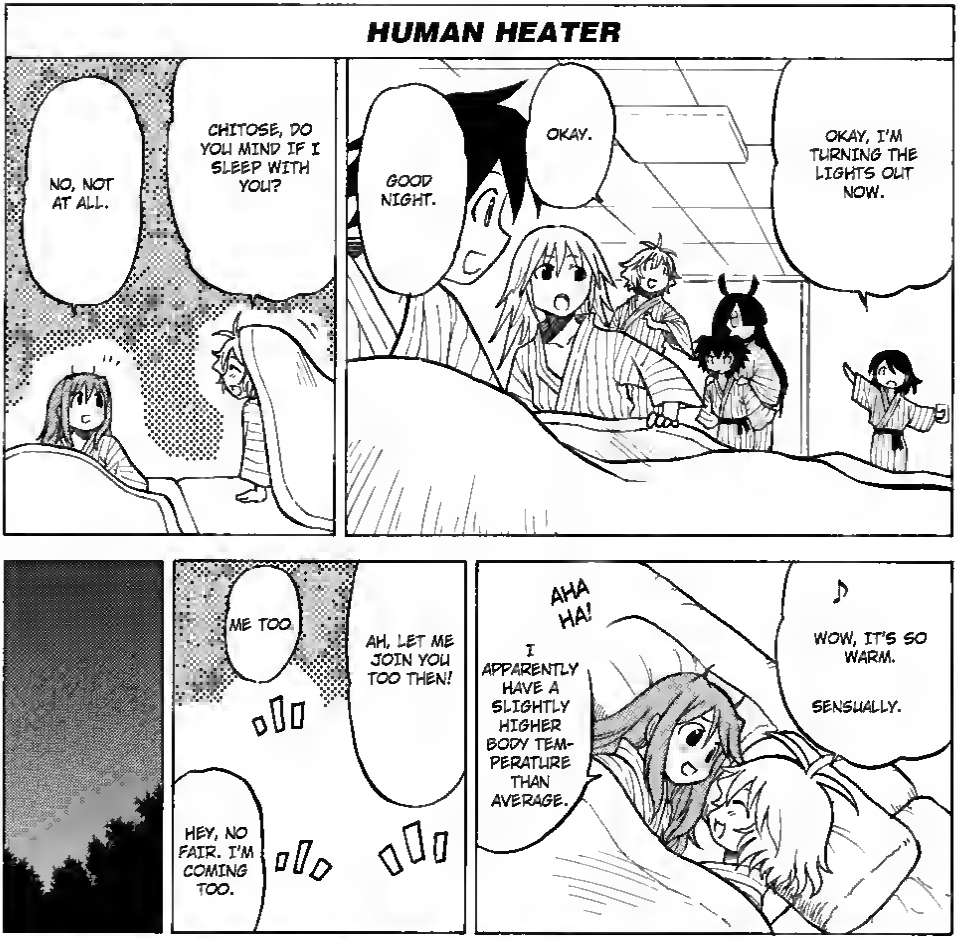
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION






THOUGH CONFUSED BY THIS SUDDEN NEW FEELING, AT SOME POINT SHE GIVES INTO THE INSTINCT OVERFLOWING FROM WITHIN HER.
A SINGLE DROP OF DEW FLOWS FROM HER SLIGHTLY DAMP BUSHES...
DESCENDING INTO THE DARKNESS OF DESIRE FILLED WITH SHAME AND ECSTASY...

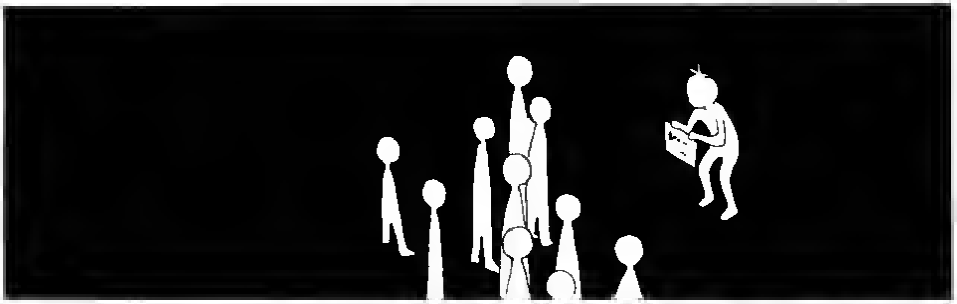
HUMAN HEATER

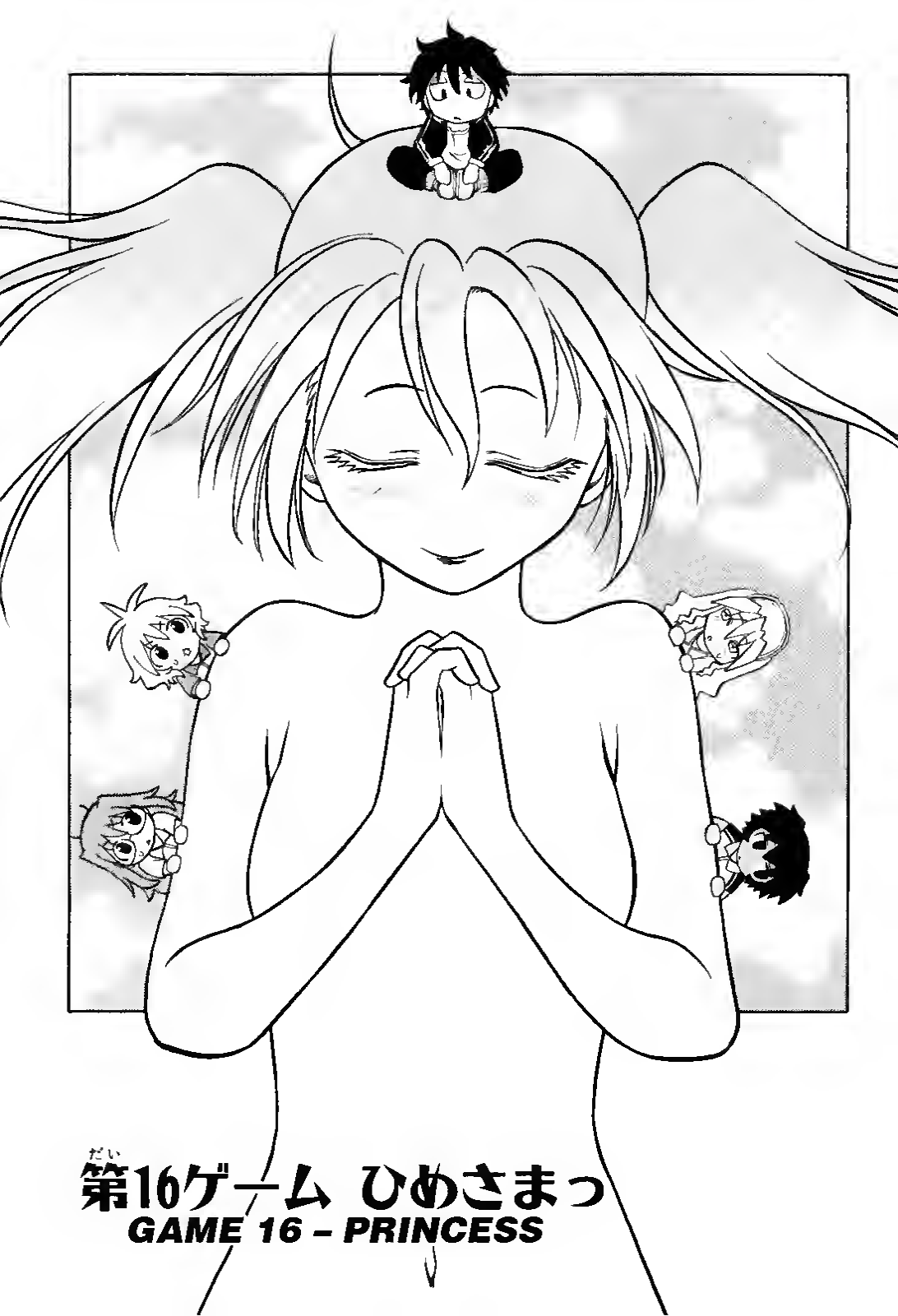


EVERYONE GET UP!!
EVERYONE GET UP!!
BAM
KOTONE-CHAN IS MISSING!!!
THERE'S NO SIGN THAT SHE USED HER FUTON.
SHE WAS ACTING STRANGE YESTERDAY, SO I WENT LOOKING FOR HER.
IT'S STILL ONLY FIVE O'CLOCK!
COME ON...
HWHAH?
WHAT IS IS, ASUNA-CHAN ...?
?!
THIS IS...
THIS...
A NOTE...?
FLAP
WHEN I DID I FOUND THIS NOTE BY THE ENTRANCE!

I'M LEAVING ON A JOURNEY.

KOTONE



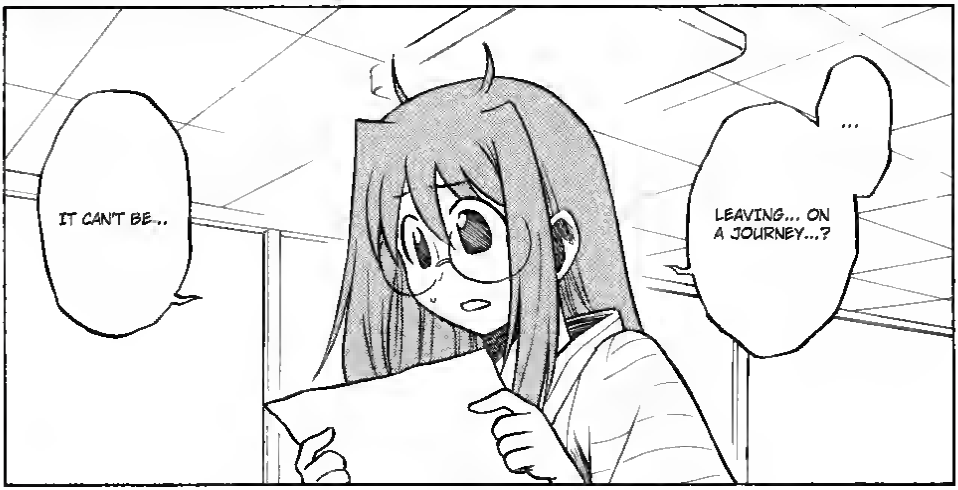


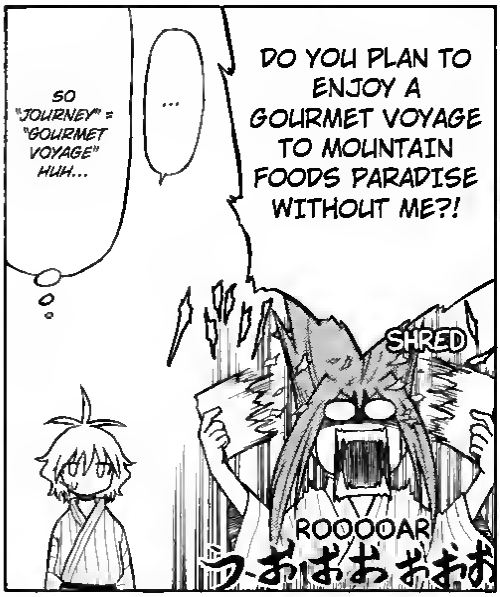
第16ゲーム ひめさまっ
GAME 16 – PRINCESS

SUMMARY OF THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER: ON THE NIGHT OF THE JOINT TRAINING CAMP, KOTONE MISTOOK CLUB ADVISER MISSHI AND ELLIE'S ACTIONS FOR A LOVER'S RENDEZVOUS.

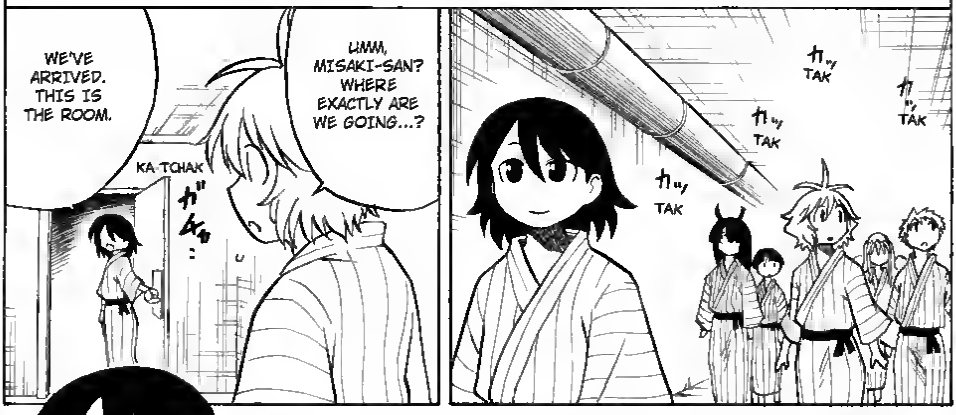
WITH HER HEART BROKEN, KOTONE VANISHED THE NEXT MORNING LEAVING ONLY A NOTE.

NOTE: I'M LEAVING ON A JOURNEY. KOTONE




SO "JOURNEY" = "GOURMET VOYAGE" HUH...
...
DO YOU PLAN TO ENJOY A GOURMET VOYAGE TO MOUNTAIN FOODS PARADISE WITHOUT ME?!
SHRED
ROOOOAR
つおばおおお

POWERFUL TECHNIQUE
EEEH?!
WHISPER WHISPER
ゴニョ ゴニョ
SENSEI'S MISSING TOO?!
WHAT IS IT, KURUSU-CHAN?
UM. ANYWAY, FIRST WE HAVE TO LET MISHIMAGI-SENSEI KNOW...
GRAB
がし
HUH?
はっ
GASP!
I GET IT! SO BASICALLY...
...
BUT KOTONE'S NAME WAS THE ONLY ONE ON THE NOTE...
COULD IT BE THAT SENSEI IS WITH HER THEN...?
ざわ..
MURMUR
?
WAIT, WAIT. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...?
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY. I'LL GO LOOK FOR THEM.
IT'LL BE FINE, ASUNA-CHAN...
JUST WHAT I'D HOPE FOR FROM OUR RESIDENT MAN-EATER!
THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION
KOTONEICHAN!!
I'M TAKING YOU...
YOU FINALLY RESORTED TO BRUTE FORCE, DIDN'T YOU?
MRRGH!
STRUT
STRUT


WE'VE ARRIVED. THIS IS THE ROOM.
KA-TCHAK
UMM, MISAKI-SAN? WHERE EXACTLY ARE WE GOING...?
TAK
TAK
TAK

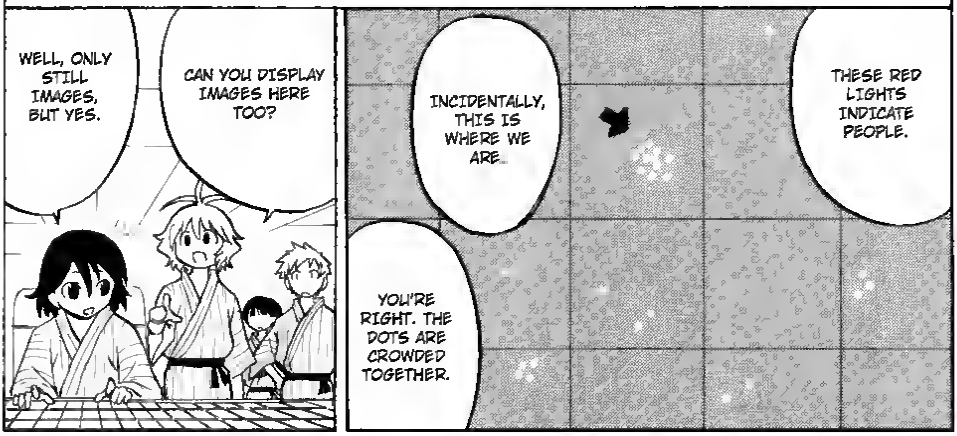
IT'S OUR MONITORING ROOM.
TA-DAAAAH!
THIS ROOM WAS BUILT TO RUN SURVEILLANCE ON THE ENTIRE MOUNTAIN.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

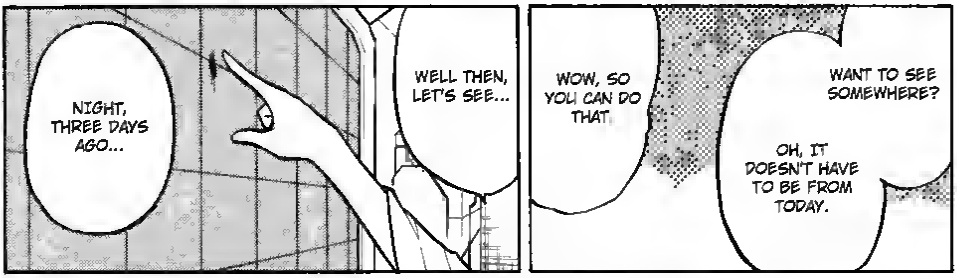
!!!
WOW... THIS IS...

ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?
WELL, I HATE TO BRAG, BUT YOU WON'T FIND MANY PLACES WITH FACILITIES LIKE...

SO WE COVER THE AREAS THAT ARE OUT OF DIRECT VISUAL RANGE USING THIS.
WE'VE GOT QUITE BIT OF LAND HERE.

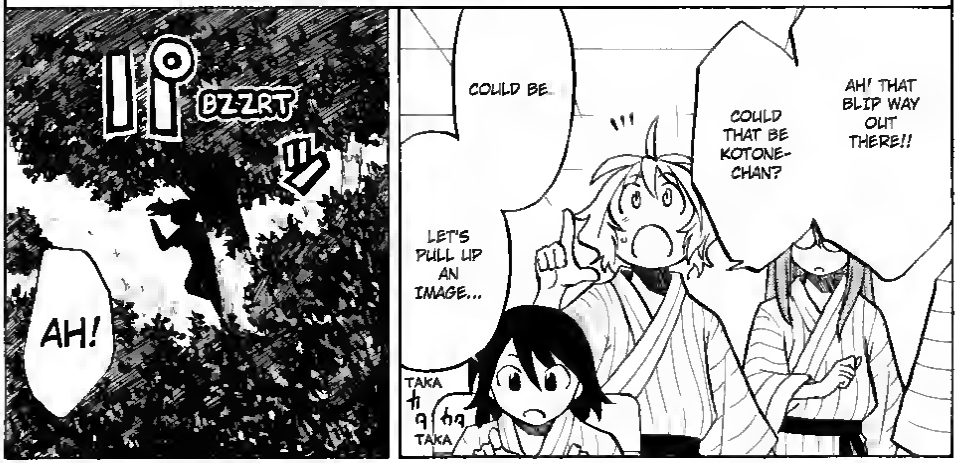
DID YOU SEE THAT...?

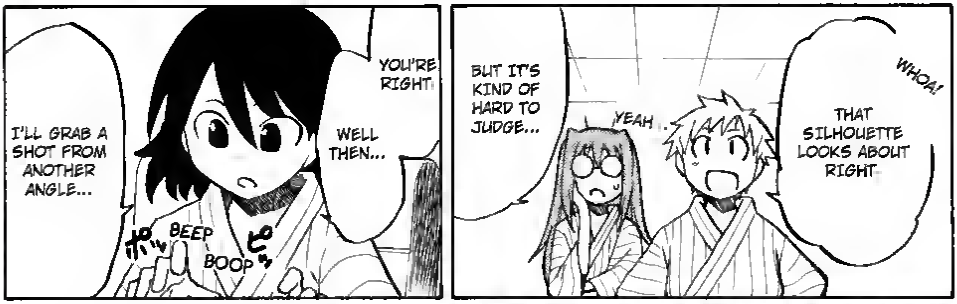

WELL, ONLY STILL IMAGES, BUT YES.
CAN YOU DISPLAY IMAGES HERE TOO?
INCIDENTALLY, THIS IS WHERE WE ARE.
THESE RED LIGHTS INDICATE PEOPLE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. THE DOTS ARE CROWDED TOGETHER.

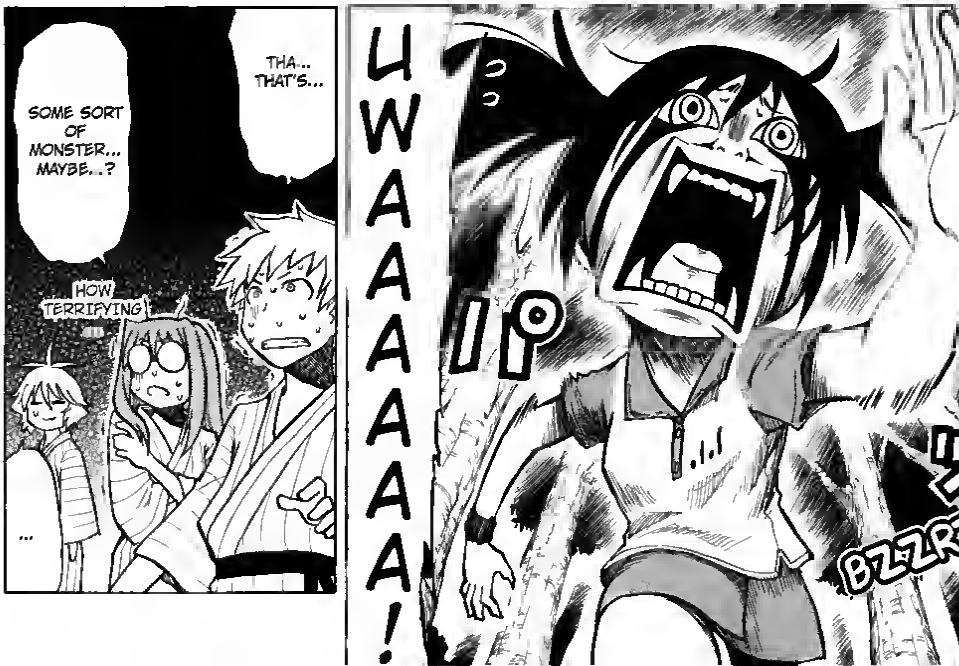


BEDROOM TEXT: BULL'S-EYE! NYANTAROU

SUSPICIOUS SILHOUETTE





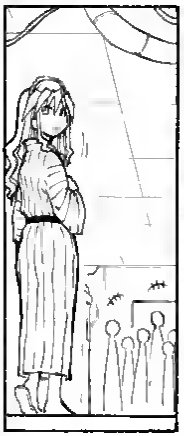


BZZRT
IT IS!!
THAT'S MISHIMAGI -SENSEI!!!
おお
OOOH!

COULD THAT BE...?
THERE'S ANOTHER BLIP NEAR THERE...
I.. I THINK THAT'S KOTONE-CHAN..
TAKA
カタ
カタ
TAKA
FOR REAL?

HE PROBABLY SAW KOTONE-CHAN LEAVING AND WENT AFTER HER
AT THAT PACE HE SHOULD CATCH UP TO HER SOON
WOW... I'VE NEVER SEEN SENSEI LOOK SO SERIOUS BEFORE...

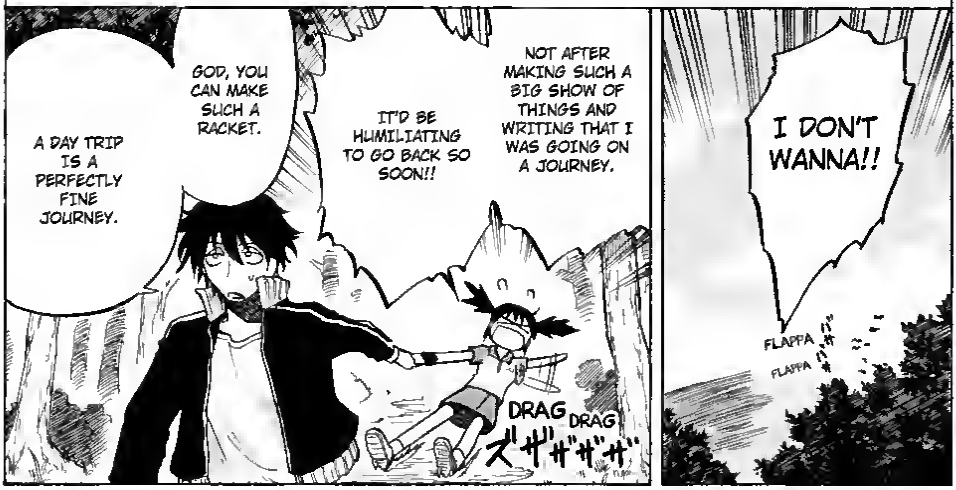
...
ELLIE-CHAN, WE'RE GOING.



THANK GOODNESS!
WELL, WITH THAT SETTLED...
LET'S GO FINISH BREAKFAST WITHOUT THEM.
AFTER THAT, PRACTICE
OKAY!

DON'T LET GO
I'M SURE AFTER THAT THEY GOT A GOOD MOOD GOING...
THEN WENT BACK TO MISSHI'S ROOM OR SOMETHING ...
I'M GONNA HOLE MYSELF UP ON THE MOUNTAIN AND TRAAAAAAIN...!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FLIRT WHERE I CAN SEE YOU...!
ヒュオ
SWOOSH
GRRK
GRRK
GRRK
URRGH ...
DARN IT....
AH...
SHI...
WHOOSH
OH CRAAAAAAP!!
NOOOOOOO!!
AND THEN ...

...GOOD GRIEF.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING...?
MI...
GRAB
!!!
LISTEN TO ME. DON'T LET GO, KOTONE...
UH. OKAY...
I'LL TRY THIS AND. .
ガコッ
CRUMBLE
OOPS.
MISSHI?!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I GO THROUGH FOR YOU.
PHEW...
LISTEN TO ME, KOTONE...
ABSOLUTELY DO NOT LET GO.
UH. OKAY...
...
NOW..
GWAAAAH!
DO SOMETHIIING!

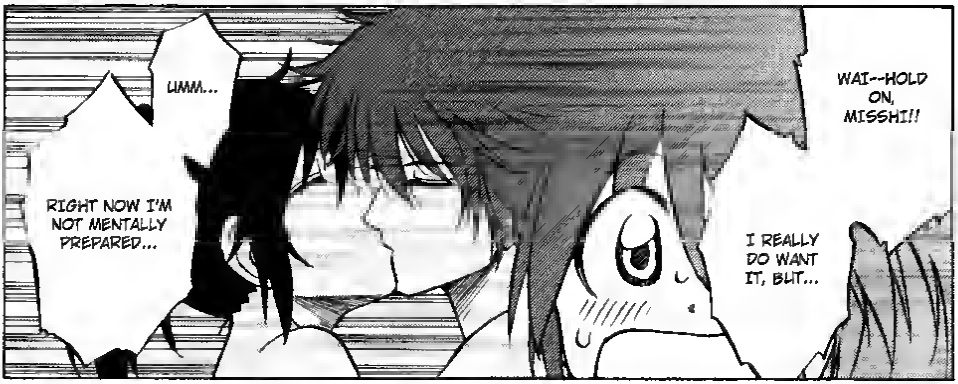

A DAY TRIP IS A PERFECTLY FINE JOURNEY.
GOD, YOU CAN MAKE SUCH A RACKET.
IT'D BE HUMILIATING TO GO BACK SO SOON!!
NOT AFTER MAKING SUCH A BIG SHOW OF THINGS AND WRITING THAT I WAS GOING ON A JOURNEY.
DRAG
DRAG
ズザザザザ
I DON'T WANNA!!
FLAPPA
FLAPPA

...AND GO GET ALL COZY WITH ELLIE!!
YANK
GOD! LET ME GO!
MISSHI, JUST LEAVE ME ALONE ...

YESTERDAY...
KOTONE...
DON'T TELL ME YOU SAW ..

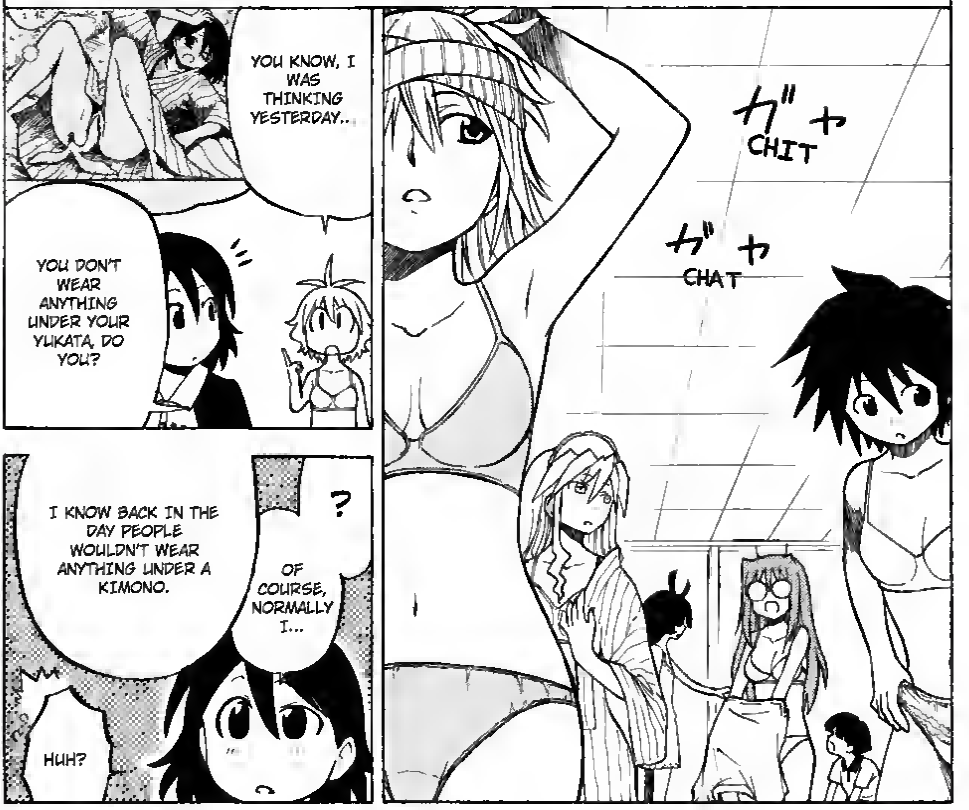
!!?
...

I'LL GIVE YOU A TASTE OF THAT ADULT FLAVOR AS WELL.
I UNDERSTAND NOW, KOTONE.
IT'S A BIT OF A STRONG SENSATION
!!?
NOD
こく..
I SEE... SO THAT'S WHY.
EVEN I...
BUT IF YOU WANTED IT THAT BADLY, ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS ASK.
HUH?

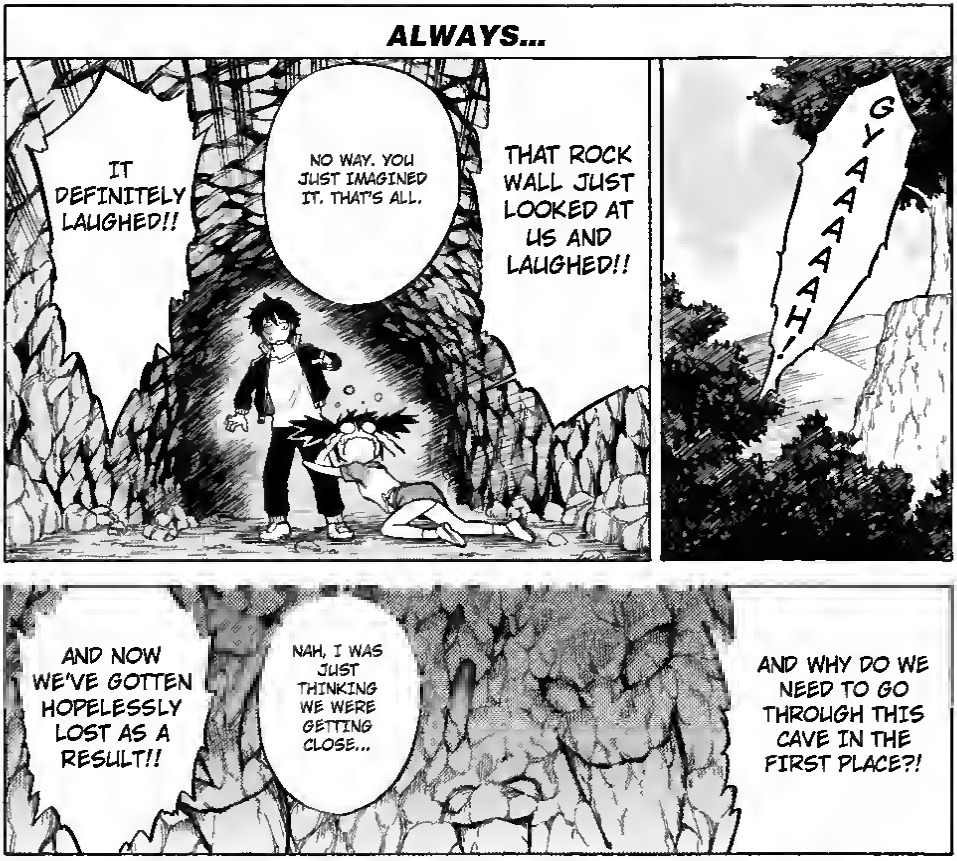


CAN: HABANERO PEACH CIDER

THE SECRET OF WHAT SHE WEARS AND DOES NOT


YOU KNOW, I WAS THINKING YESTERDAY..
YOU DON'T WEAR ANYTHING UNDER YOUR YUKATA, DO YOU?
I KNOW BACK IN THE DAY PEOPLE WOULDN'T WEAR ANYTHING UNDER A KIMONO.
?
OF COURSE, NORMALLY I...
HUH?
カ" ヤ CHIT
カ" ヤ CHAT

HOW SHE USUALLY IS
I'M SAVED!
THAT WAS CLOSE.
I REALLY HATE HUMIDITY, YOU KNOW...
I ONLY DO IT OCCASIONALLY
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT WAS IT!!
THA-!!
I GET IT. IT WAS KIND OF HUMID YESTERDAY AFTER ALL.
..I CAN UNDERSTAND
IF I THINK ABOUT LIKE THAT..
BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT WITH YUKATA. .
AH.
BADUM
!!!


ALWAYS...
IT DEFINITELY LAUGHED!!
NO WAY. YOU JUST IMAGINED IT. THAT'S ALL.
THAT ROCK WALL JUST LOOKED AT US AND LAUGHED!!
GYAAAAAH!
AND NOW WE'VE GOTTEN HOPELESSLY LOST AS A RESULT!!
NAH, I WAS JUST THINKING WE WERE GETTING CLOSE...
AND WHY DO WE NEED TO GO THROUGH THIS CAVE IN THE FIRST PLACE?!

!!?
すっ LIFT
YOU'RE A REAL TROUBLESOME PRINCESS...

WAI--!
MISSHI, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE...?
YOU'RE SO SCARED BY OUR SURROUNDINGS THAT YOU CAN'T KEEP GOING, RIGHT?

JEEZ.
GOOD GRIEF...

WE'RE DONE FOR!
WE'RE GONNA GET GENOCIDED BY THE EVIL SPIRITS INHABITING THIS CAVE!!
GYAAAAAH!
...

THEN HOW ABOUT YOU JUST...
...ALWAYS LOOK ONLY AT ME.

I'LL KEEP LOOKING AT YOU...
...
OKAY...

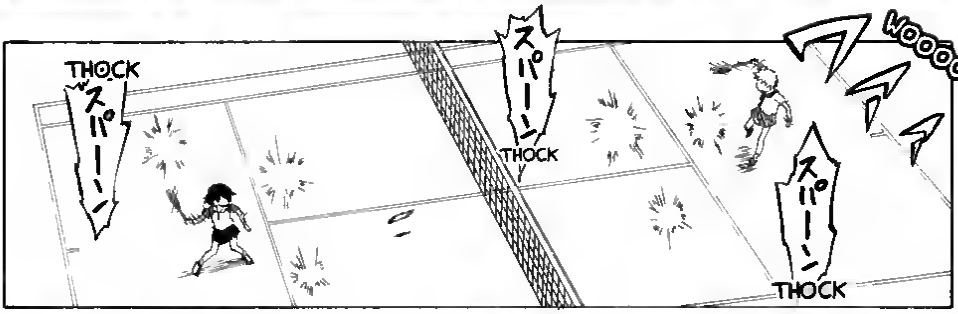
IF YOU DO THAT, YOU WON'T HAVE TO SEE ANYTHING SCARY.
RIGHT?

ALWAYS...

IT'S MUSCLE, YOU JERK!!
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE HEAVIER THAN YOU LOOK.
SCRUNCH
SCRUNCH
SCRUNCH

SMALL BUT PACKS A PUNCH
NOW THEN...
WE CAN LEAVE KOTONE-CHAN TO MISHIMAGI-SENSEI.
AS FOR US...
SHALL WE HIT THE BALL BACK AND FORTH A BIT TO START?
FINE.
HOLD IT!
WHAT'S WRONG, SUMINO-CHAN?
NO, IT'S JUST...
STOP GOING EASY AND UNDERESTIMATING US. IT'S INSULTING
SMIRK
...MISS NATIONAL CHAMP?
HOW ABOUT YOU FACE US ONE ON ONE
SWISH
...
OH, MY.
YOU WANT REVENGE FOR YESTERDAY?

ゴゴゴゴ
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WELL, I DON'T MIND.
YOU'RE SURE TO REGRET THIS THOUGH.
ゴゴゴゴ
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
HEH...!
WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO MISJUDGE OUR TRUE ABILITY WHEN WE WERE JUST FOOLING AROUND.


THOCK
スパーン
スパーン
THOCK
WOOOO!
スパーン
THOCK

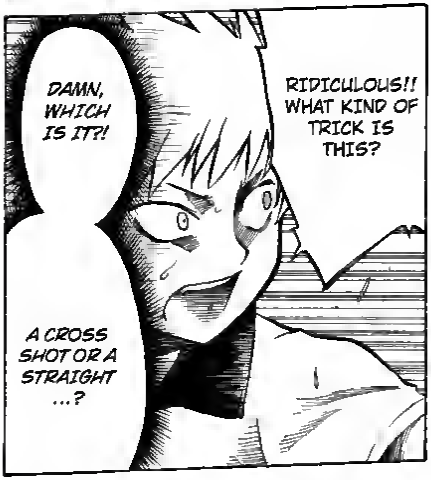
I'LL MAKE YOU SHOW ME...
BUT... THIS STILL ISN'T YOUR BEST YET, IS IT?
WHEW!
スウ...
BWOOSH

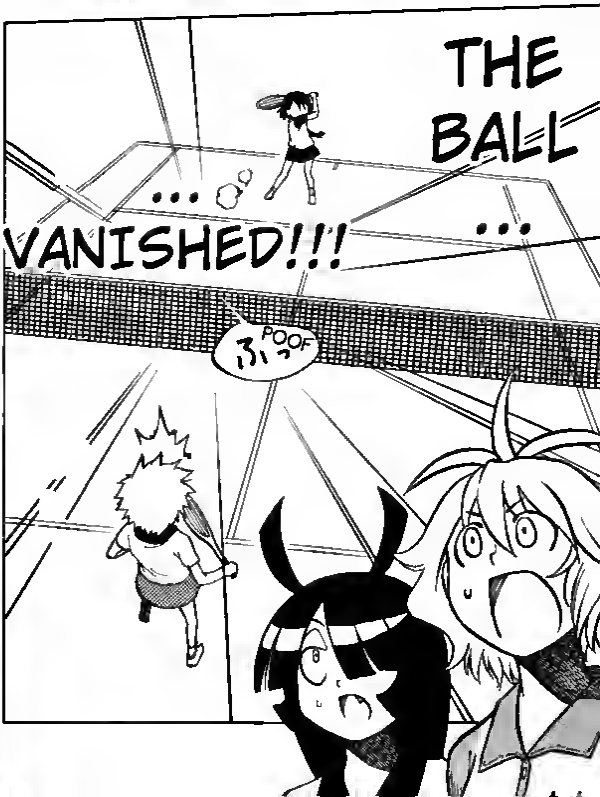
...
HAHH?
SHE'S TOUGH...
FIGURES.
HAHH

THE TRUE REACH OF A NATIONAL CHAMP'S POWER!!
!!!
IF YOU'RE GONNA USE A PHRASE LIKE THAT, IT BETTER COMPLETELY CRUSH YOUR OPPONENT!
FOR INSTANCE ...
WHOOSH
THAT'S SUMINO'S ULTIMATE TECHNIQUE WHICH SHE ALWAYS KEEPS HIDDEN UNLESS SHE'S IN A SERIOUS MATCH!
THAT'S ...
THE SURE-KILL MORATORIUM JET FIRE!!
SURE-KILL ...?

SHE. SHE RETURNED IT!!
NO...
.!.!
EVEN WORSE...!
THE...

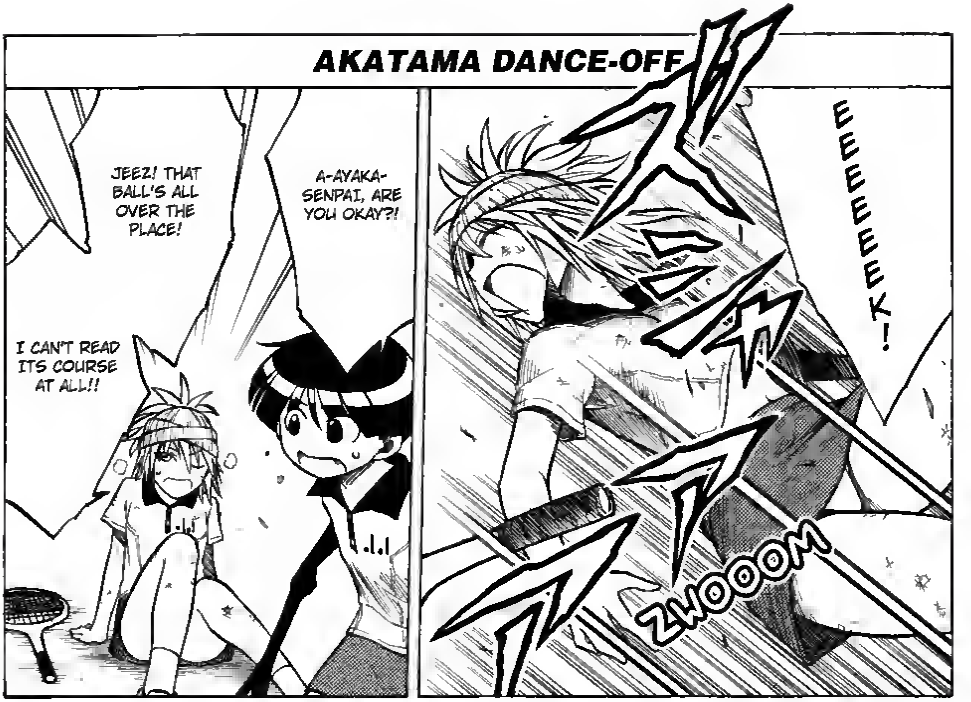
LIKE THIS!!
SURE-KILL INVISIBLE COUNTER!!
FLASH


DAMN, WHICH IS IT?!
RIDICULOUS!! WHAT KIND OF TRICK IS THIS?
A CROSS SHOT OR A STRAIGHT ...?


THE BALL
...
VANISHED!!!
...
POOF
ふっ

FWISH
!!?

GWAAAAAAAH!
SHWOOOM
IT'S COMING... STRAIGHT AT ME...?
IT...
NGH...
THE VELOCITY PASSED THE SPEED OF LIGHT AT THE MOMENT OF IMPACT.
SO TO THE UNTRAINED EYE, IT SEEMED LIKE IT DISAPPEARED FOR A MINUTE.
THERE IS NO TRICK.
HEH HEH
SHE EVEN WIPED OUT HER OPPONENT...
THAT INVISIBLE COUNTER IS TERRIFYING!!
DOOOOM
THOUGH I THINK HER POWER IS WHAT'S AMAZING HERE...
CRUMBLE
...
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
THAT YOU WOULD REGRET THIS?
♡
BAM


JEEZ! THAT BALL'S ALL OVER THE PLACE!
A-AYAKA-SENPAI, ARE YOU OKAY?!
I CAN'T READ ITS COURSE AT ALL!!
EEEEEEEK!
ZWOOOM

PYUUUU
AMEMIYA-STYLE TECHNIQUE..
FLOWER OF THE 16TH NIGHT MOON!

SURE-KILL – THAT INDIVIDUALISTIC THING!!
DAMN! I'LL AVENGE MY SENPAI!
ZWOOM

THE FORBIDDEN SHOT...
PAPARAZZI REQUIEM!!!
WHA-BAM

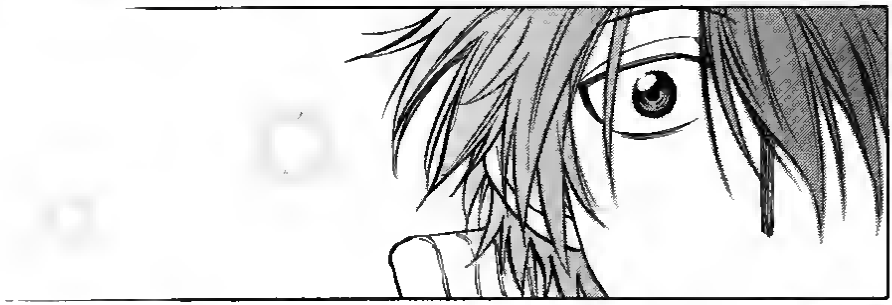
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
GYA AAAH!
HONESTLY...
YOU GIRLS JUST DON'T LEARN...
THIS ISN'T ENOUGH...
TO BREAK OUR SPIRITS!!
AHH
ZWOOSH
GROAN
NOT...
NGH...!
NOT YET...
WHAT CAN I SAY...
THEY'RE LINED UP LIKE TARGETS.
I SHOULDN'T S-Y IT THOUGH...
POK
AZUSA!
THERE'S NUMBER THREE.♪
CRUNCH
YEAH...
NO MATTER HOW BADLY THEY'RE BEATEN, THEY DON'T RETREAT.
...
THE AKATAMA GIRLS HAVE SUCH INCREDIBLE FIGHTING SPIRIT.
SNAP
THUD
BUT...

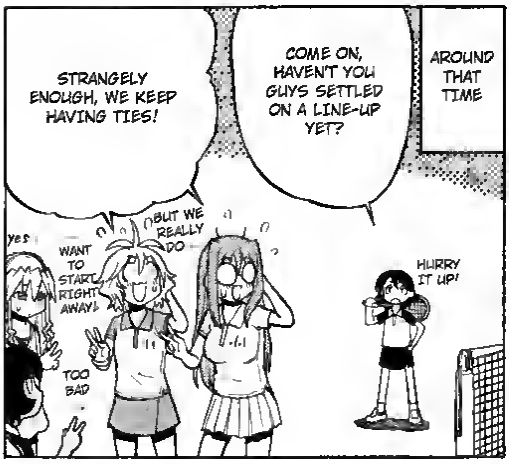
SURE-KILL - WITNESS

NOPE, THAT'S IT.
I'M JUST THE REFEREE AFTER ALL.
WAS THAT ALL OF THE AKATAMA GIRLS...?
I SEEM TO REMEMBER ONE MORE
AKATAMA SECOND YEAR TSUCHIDA SHOUKO
ヒョオオォォォォ
W H O O S H
THAT'S THAT!
SO...

HUH?
ANOTHER PERSON JUST WENT FLYING.
THEY RUNNING SOME SORT OF HUMAN CANNONBALL TOURNAMENT?
WHO KNOWS?
THEY DIDN'T MENTION ANYTHING TO ME
WELL, ANYWAY.
RIGHT NOW IT'S TENNIS TIME
BREAK'S OVER.
I HAVE TO GO SHOW EVERYONE THE NEW AND IMPROVED, POWERED-UP VERSION OF ME.
HUH?
BUT YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING SPECIAL.
WHAT PART OF YOU GOT POWERED UP?

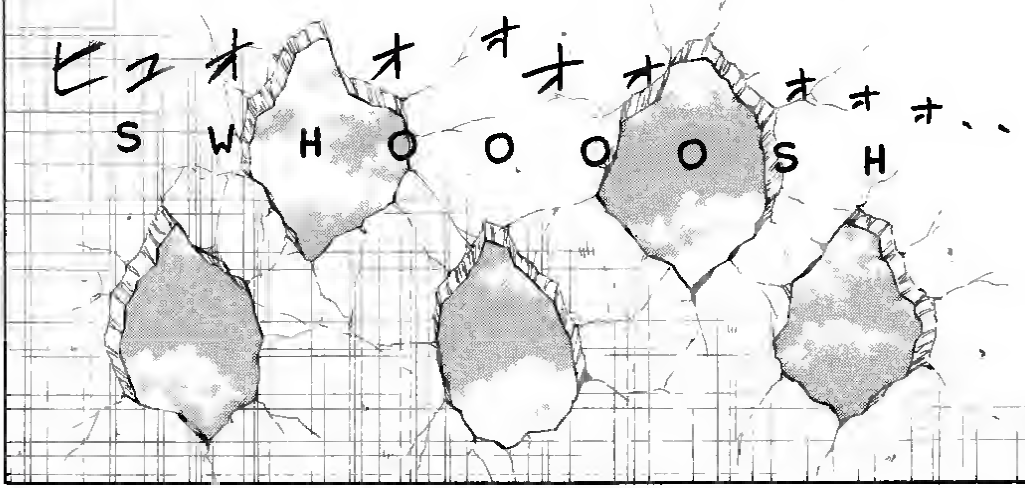
THIS PART. ♪
とん
T.OUCH.



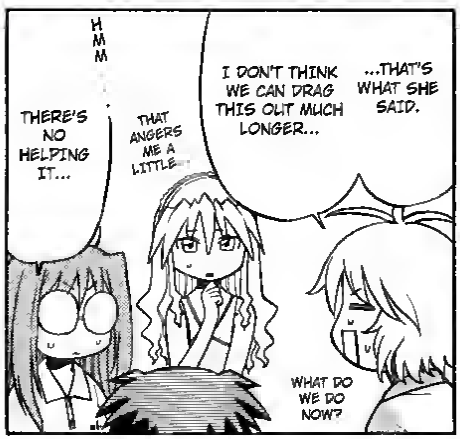

STRANGELY ENOUGH, WE KEEP HAVING TIES!
COME ON, HAVEN'T YOU GUYS SETTLED ON A LINE-UP YET?
AROUND THAT TIME
yes
WANT TO START RIGHT AWAY!
BUT WE REALLY DO
TOO BAD
HURRY IT UP!

IDIO--!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! I'M TALKING ABOUT WHAT'S INSIDE!!!
THEY DON'T LOOK THAT POWERED UP TO ME...
...
REALLY?

第17ゲーム ひとまずっ
GAME 17 – FOR NOW


ヒュオオオオオオオオ…
SWHOOOOSH

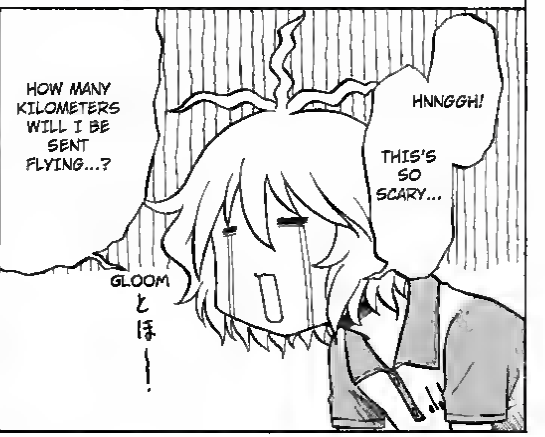
FINE, THEN LET'S PUT THAT TO THE TEST.
WE CONTROL OUR OWN DESTINIES!!
BUT...
GROWL

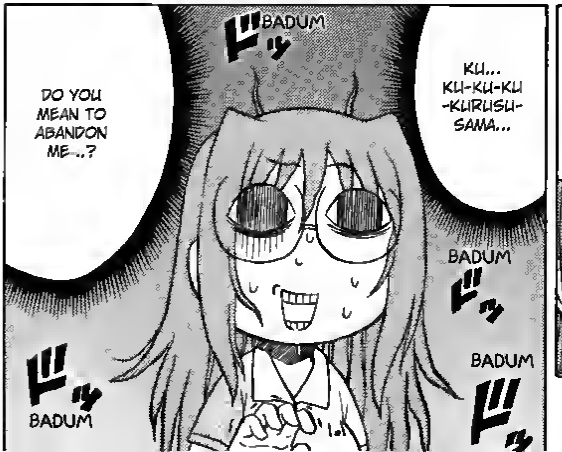

HMM...
THERE'S NO HELPING IT...
THAT ANGERS ME A LITTLE.
I DON'T THINK WE CAN DRAG THIS OUT MUCH LONGER...
...THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

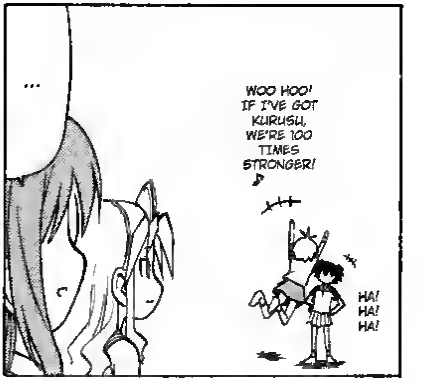
YOU'RE ALL DESTINED TO GO FLYING ANYWAY.
HURRY UP AND CHOOSE AN ORDER.
JUST GO WITH WHATEVER!!
BOOM!

ELLIE-CHAN!!!
ばばっ
BA-BAM
NO... I, THE NEWEST MEMBER, OUGHT TO GO...
CHITOSE-SAN!!
AS CLUB PRESIDENT, I WILL GO FIRST!!
ばっ!..
BAM
KURUSU-CHAN!!!
どばーん
DWA-BAM!!
WELL, I AM THE YOUNG HOPE OF THE TEAM...
うおお
WHOOOOA
I CAN'T ACCEPT DEFEAT HERE EITHER.
PLEASE, ALLOW ME DO IT!!
おお
WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING...?
JUST HURRY IT UP...
ACK!
CURSES! IT WAS A SET-UP!
WELL, IF YOU INSIST...
GO ON. GO ON.

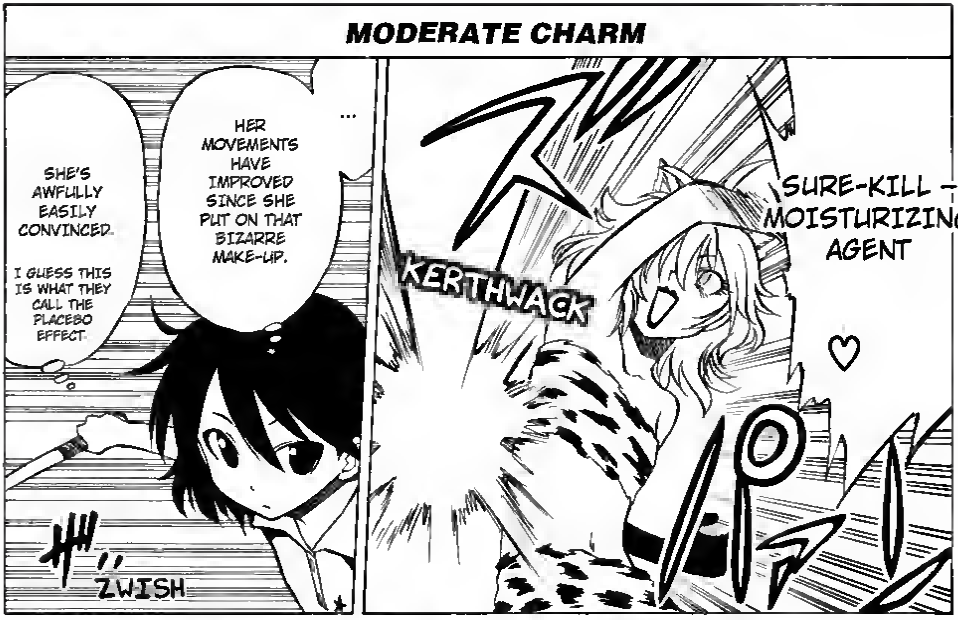
YOU'RE NOT ALONE

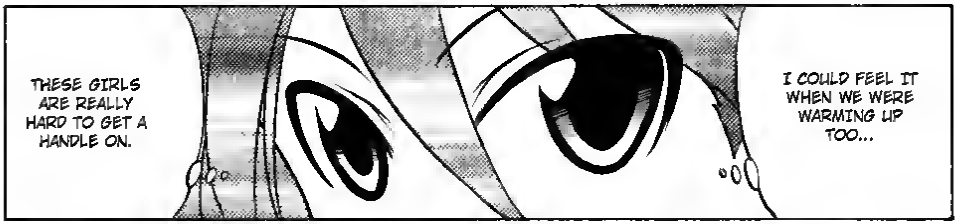






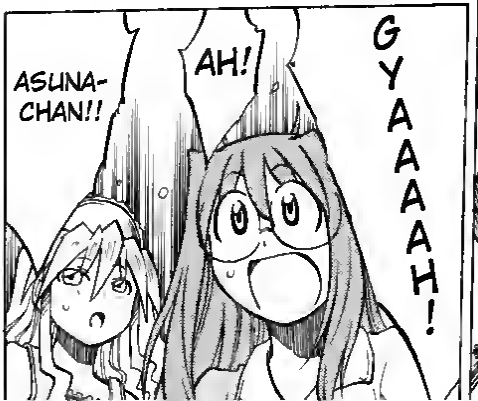
OVERCOME YOUR FEARS
...MUST BE BROKEN FROM THE OUTSIDE!
THE BARRICADE AROUND YOUR HEART...
WHA--?!
BWOOSH
THAT'S EASY TO SAY, BUT...
I MEAN LOOK AT WHO WE'RE UP AGAINST.
FIRST, YOU NEED TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF...
NO WORRIES!
BAM
BAM
I FEEL LIKE I COULD TAKE ON THE WORLD!
YEP.
THIS IS ME...?
THAT'S THE SPIRIT.
MAKE-UP!
ENVY OF THE WORLD
SHIIIING
!!!

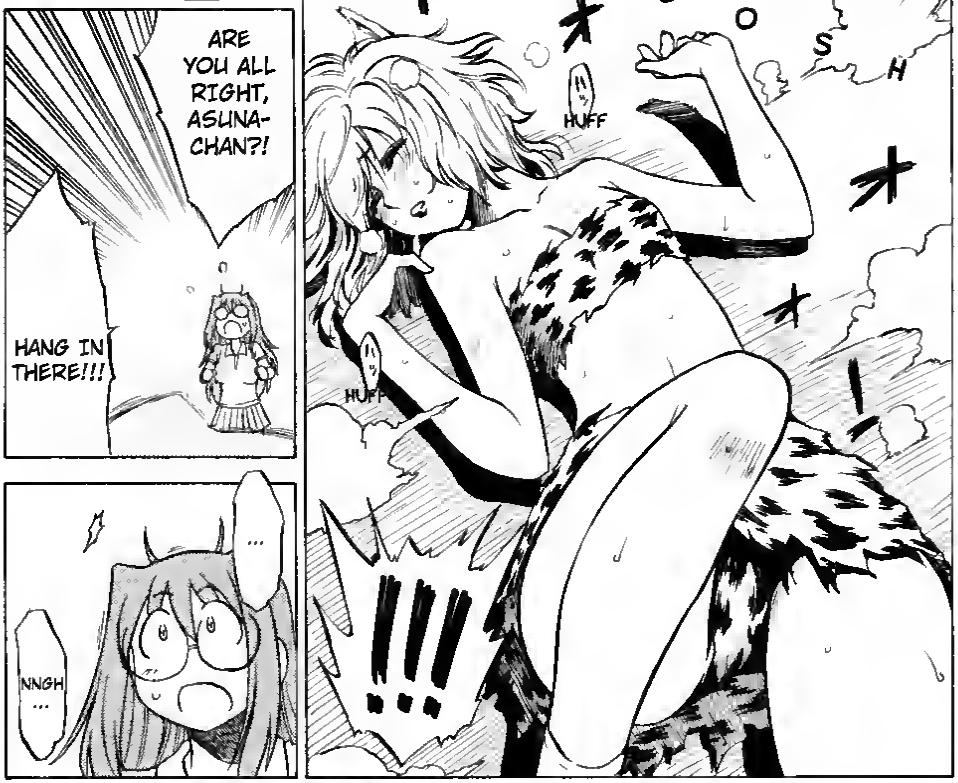

MODERATE CHARM
...
HER MOVEMENTS HAVE IMPROVED SINCE SHE PUT ON THAT BIZARRE MAKE-UP.
SHE'S AWFULLY EASILY CONVINCED.
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL THE PLACEBO EFFECT.
ZWISH
KERTHWACK
SURE-KILL – MOISTURIZING AGENT

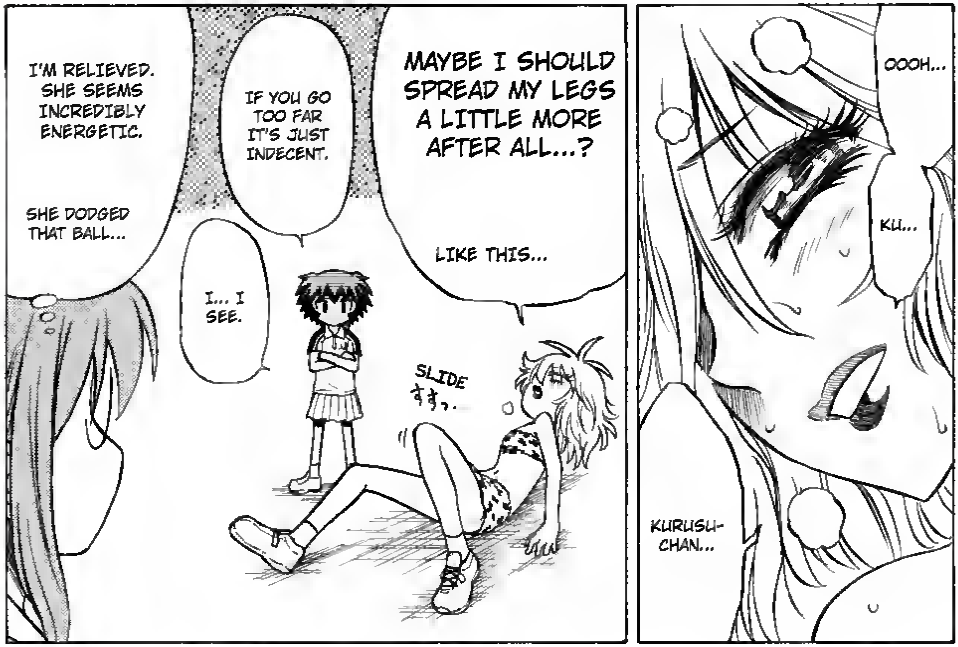

THESE GIRLS ARE REALLY HARD TO GET A HANDLE ON.
I COULD FEEL IT WHEN WE WERE WARMING UP TOO...

!!!
SHWOOOM

... THAT THEY'RE NOWHERE NEAR MY LEVEL!!
STILL, THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT...
POK

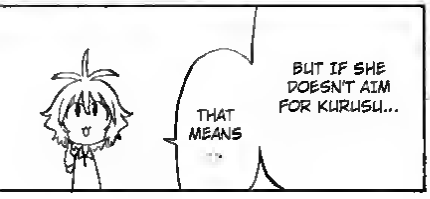

ASUNA-CHAN!!
AH!
GYAAAAH!


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, ASUNA-CHAN?!
HANG IN THERE!!!
...
NNGH ...
WHOOOSH
HUFF
HUFF
!!!


I'M RELIEVED. SHE SEEMS INCREDIBLY ENERGETIC.
SHE DODGED THAT BALL...
IF YOU GO TOO FAR IT'S JUST INDECENT.
I... I SEE.
MAYBE I SHOULD SPREAD MY LEGS A LITTLE MORE AFTER ALL...?
LIKE THIS...
SLIDE
すすっ.
OOOH...
KU...
KURUSU-CHAN...

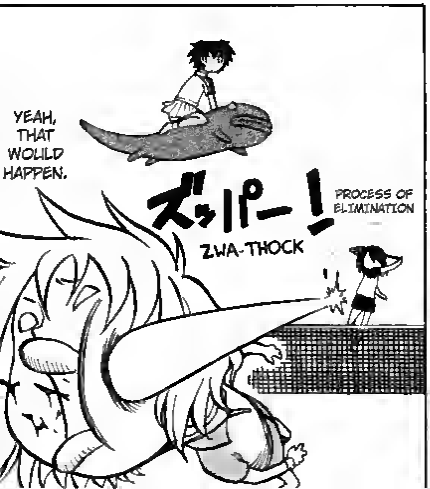
THE TRUMP CARD

A...
A GIANT SALAMANDER ...?
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
SALAMANDER TEXT: NATURAL MONUMENT


THAT MEANS...
BUT IF SHE DOESN'T AIM FOR KURUSU...

NICE GOING, KURUSU-CHAN.
NOW THERE'S NO WORRY ABOUT HER AIMING FOR YOU..

URK...!
IF I INJURE THAT GIANT SALAMANDER HERE, I'LL BE IN VIOLATION OF THE CULTURAL TREASURES PROTECTION LAW...
I'LL HAVE A CRIMINAL RECORD AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE!


YEAH, THAT WOULD HAPPEN.
ズッパー!
ZWA-THOCK
PROCESS OF ELIMINATION

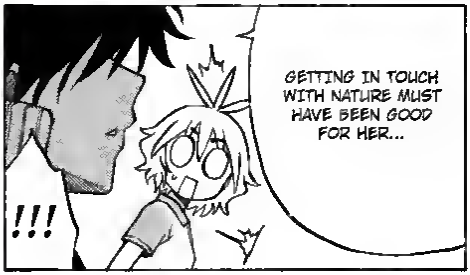
HUH?
...

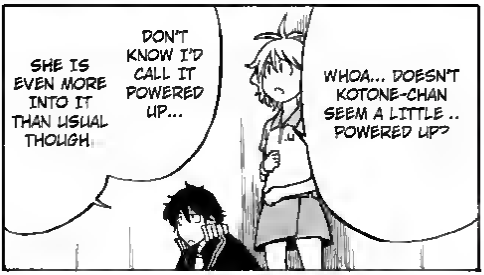
A SUDDEN APPEARANCE
ゴォオオオ
ZOOOM
ASUNA-CHAAAAN!!!
ギィィィィ
ZOOOOM
NO...
SHE IS GOING TO END UP LIKE THE AKATAMA GIRLS!!!
AAAH!
CATCH
I GET IT NOW...
HEH...!
OH...!

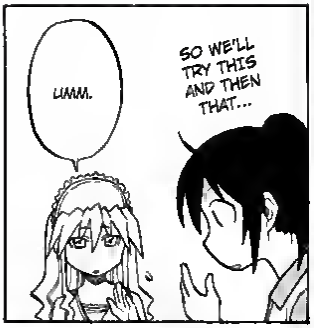
MISSHI!!
KOTONE-CHAN!!
HOW'D YOU EVEN GET UP THERE?
COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHY PEOPLE KEPT ON FLYING PAST.
SO THIS IS WHAT IT WAS.
HOWEVER
HILEAP
JUST ...
GIVE ME TEN MINUTES FIRST...
...
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE.
I'M GONNA PUT A STOP TO YOUR LITTLE SHOW.
ZWAIBAM
!!!

AFTERNOON OF QUICK DECISIONS
INSTANT DEATH.
SO, IF I WENT AGAINST HER ONE-ON-ONE...?
GOTCHA.
INSTANT DEATH, HUH...?
OWIE
IS THAT SHIDOU GIRL REALLY SO STRONG...?
TO THE POINT WHERE IT OUGHT TO BE AGAINST THE RULES.
ELLIE...
SO, WHO HASN'T GONE YET...?
NO HELPING IT THEN.
I'LL HAVE TO PUT UP WITH A DOUBLES MATCH THIS TIME.
TOP LEFT SIGN: EXTRA SPECIAL PRICE!
RIGHT SIGN: BARGAIN SALE
ER... YES...
WELL, ELLIE, I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
AND...
大特価
求ム相方
HEAD BAND: TAKE ME AS YOUR DOUBLES COMPANION!
BOTTOM LEFT SIGN: SEEKING A PARTNER!

THE QUEEN OF DELUSIONS IN NATURE





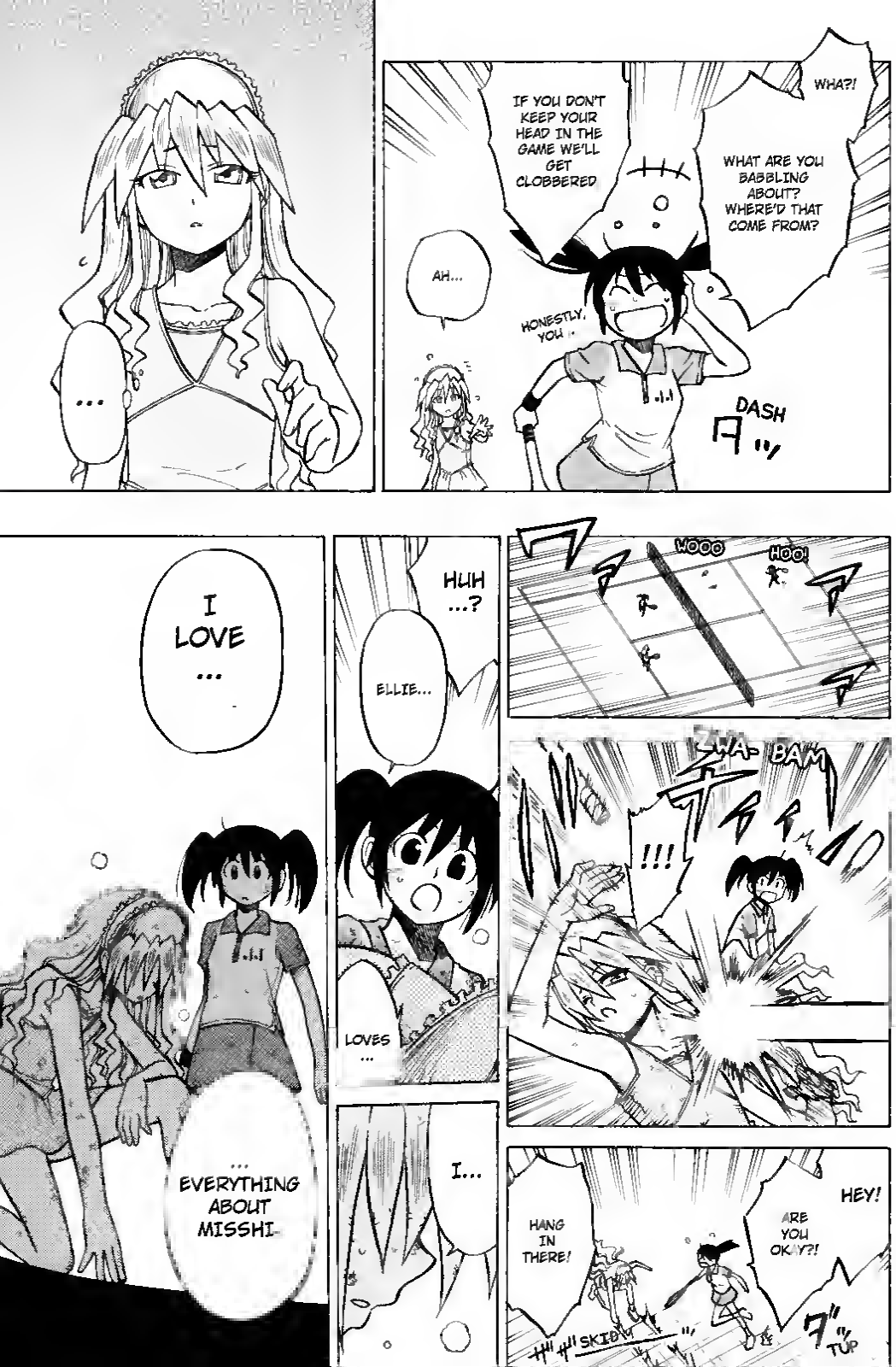

UMM.
SO WE'LL TRY THIS AND THEN THAT...

THERE IS SOMETHING THAT I HAVE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT...
?
WHAT'S UP?
GO ON AND ASK.

HMM...
SO IT'S A MAGICALLY DISAPPEARING BALL, HUH?
BUT IT'S STILL JUST A STRAIGHT, RIGHT...?
YES.
THEN WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

HUH ...?

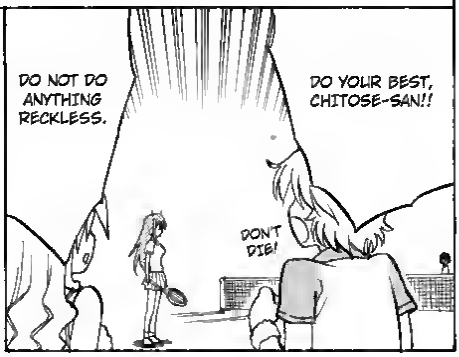
KOTONE.
DO YOU LOVE MISSHI?

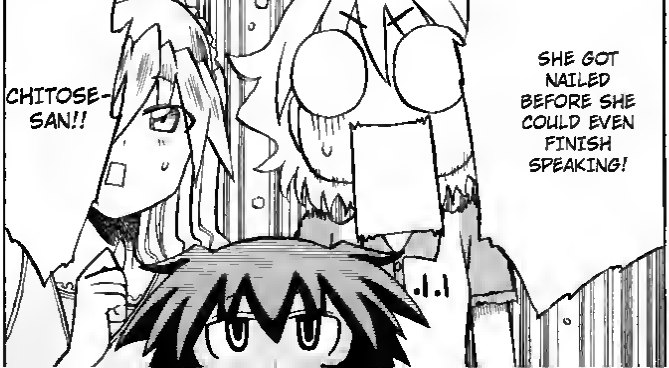

...
WHA?!
IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME WE'LL GET CLOBBERED
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT? WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
AH...
HONESTLY, YOU...
DASH
I LOVE ...
HUH ...?
ELLIE...
LOVES ...
WOOO
HOO!
WAP
BAM
!!!
... EVERYTHING ABOUT MISSHI-
I...
HANG IN THERE!
HEY!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
SKID
TUP

I LOVE HIM...
...
THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE...
GUESS IT'S A STRAIGHT BALL NO MATTER WHAT.
...JEEZ.
THIS GIRL...
NO .. NO LESS THAN YOU DO...
I...
I LOVE HIM TOO. I LOVE...
I...
I LOVE HIM.
I DO...
...BUT TO RETURN THE VOLLEY, RIGHT?

SHI...
MIS...
GIGGLE
thanks...
...KOTONE.
CRUMPLE
WOW, KOTONE-CHAN.
CRUMPLE
...
WHAM
GWAAAH!

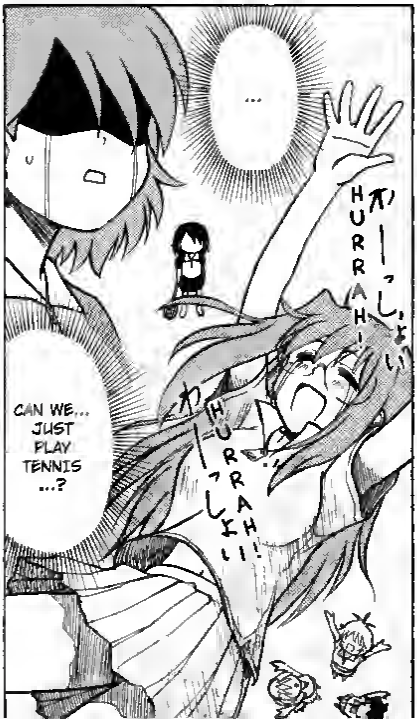
CHITOSE'S BRIGHT IDEA

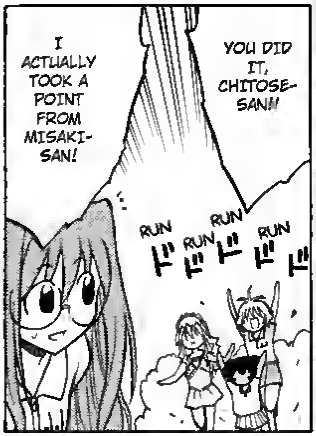


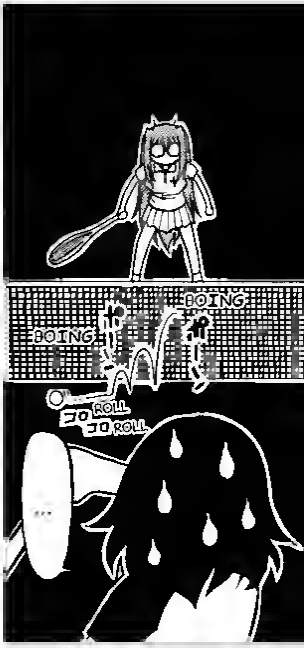


SHE STOPPED THAT LIGHT-SPEED BALL?!
NO... NO WAY...
AND OF ALL THE WAYS TO DO IT...
SHE CAUGHT IT IN HER TEETH...!
AS PROOF, LOOK.
WOW... THAT'S...
SELF HYPNOSIS.
THAT'S WHAT IT IS.
SHE MOST LIKELY MANAGED TO CONVINCE HERSELF THAT THE BALL WAS A RICE CAKE.
THEN SHE LEFT THE REST TO HER INSTINCTS AS A GOURMET.
IT... IT CAN'T BE..!
CHITOSE-SAN COULD SEE THAT BALL...
NOPE...
SHE'S TRYING TO CHEW IT.
YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT...
SEE?
SHE SURE IS CHEWING ON IT.
OM NOM もっちゃ
OM NOM もっちゃ

PRESIDENT'S DAY



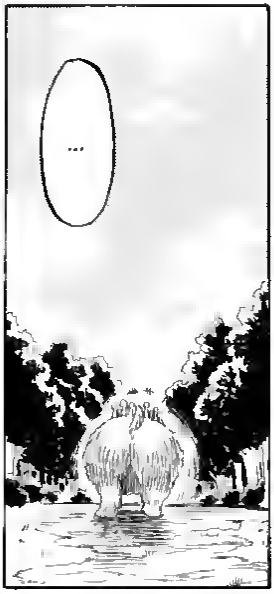




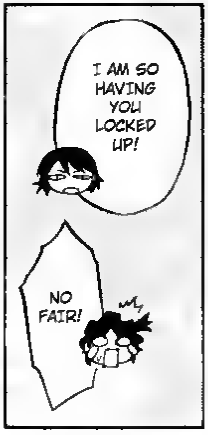
IT'S BEEN A REALLY FUN THREE DAYS!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
BE SURE TO POLISH YOUR SKILL EVEN MORE BEFORE THEN.
NEXT TIME WE MEET WILL BE AT THE TOURNAMENT.
SURE. ♪
UM .. OKAY, THEN.
STILL, BE CAREFUL.
KUMAKICHI WILL ESCORT US BACK.
WE'LL BE FINE.
TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY BACK.
ROAR
WHOA!
- NO - PROBLEMO. ♪
RIGHT?
IT SHOULD BE, "NEXT TIME WE'LL DEFINITELY WIN!!"
DON'T SET SUCH A LOW GOAL!
NEXT TIME WE'LL TAKE A POINT FROM YOU THROUGH OUR...
CHOP
ズドム
OW.

SIGN: MASSAGE ROOM

マッサージルーム
OOOH! あぁ
...AT THE WACKY JOINT TRAINING CAMP FINALLY CAME TO A CLOSE.
THOSE THREE LONG, YET SHORT DAYS...
KURUSU-CHAN, HELP!
HANG IN THERE.



DRENCHED RED IN YOUR OWN BLOOD ON THE TENNIS COURT.
...SHALL COME TO KNOW TRUE DESPAIR.
BUT NEXT TIME WE MEET, YOU WHO BURN WITH THE LIGHT OF HOPE...

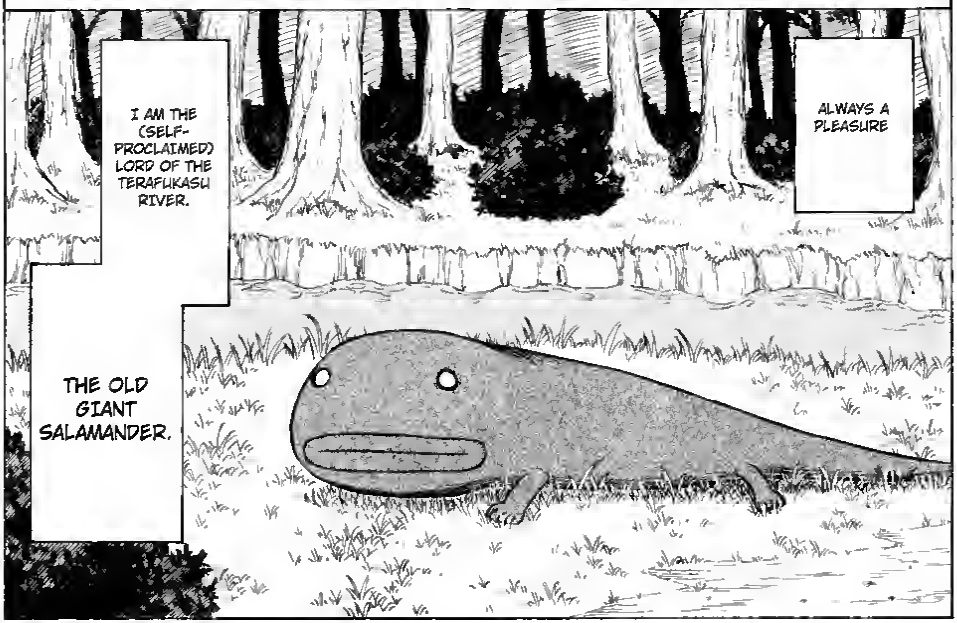


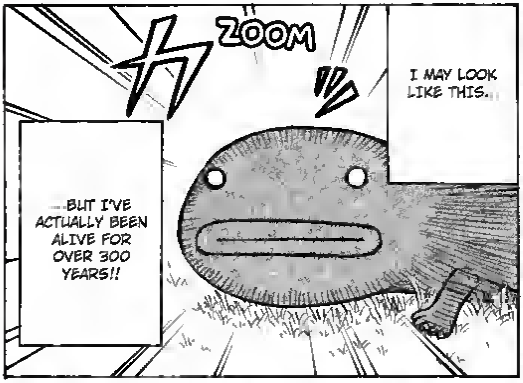
SIGN: DRENCHED RED IN YOUR OWN BLOOD ON THE TENNIS COURT.

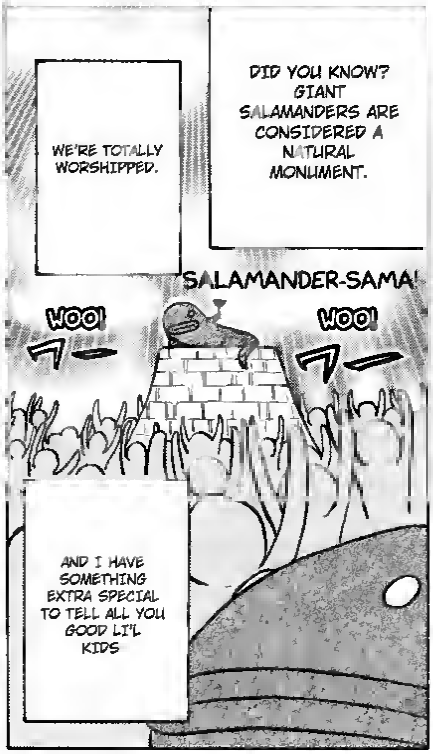
THE CHAMP'S STILL A TEENAGER TOO

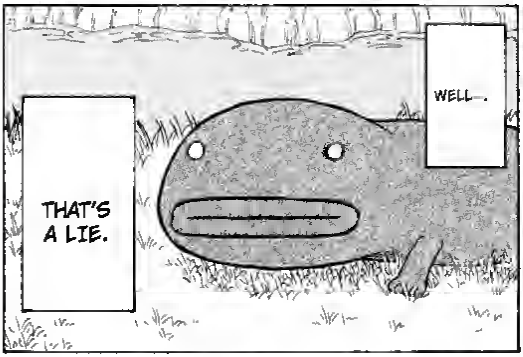
番外編(ばんがいへん) てんねんっ
SIDE STORY – NATURAL

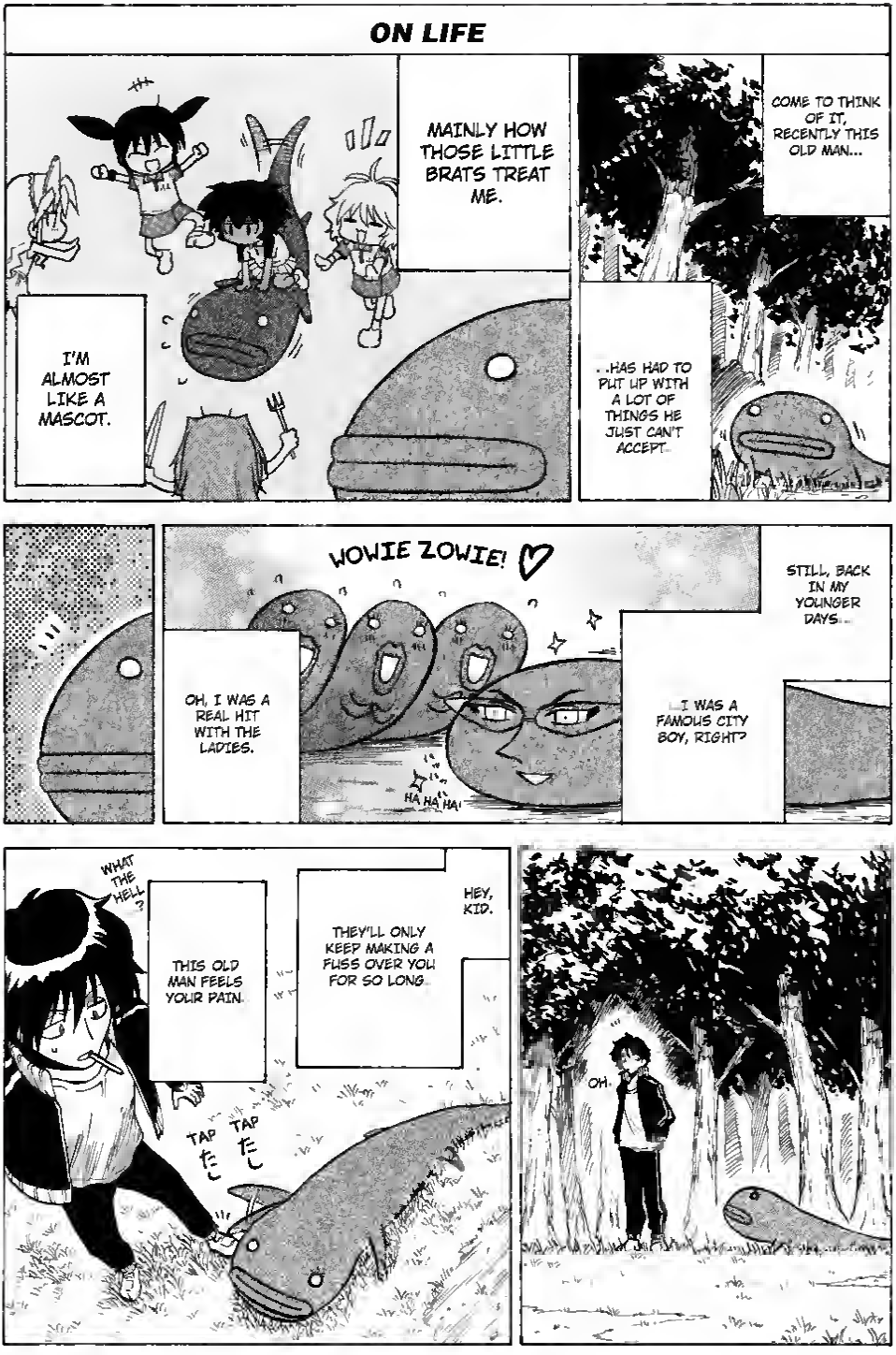
THE OLD MAN STANDS ON LAND






WE'RE TOTALLY WORSHIPPED.
DID YOU KNOW? GIANT SALAMANDERS ARE CONSIDERED A NATURAL MONUMENT.
SALAMANDER-SAMA!
WOO!
WOO!
AND I HAVE SOMETHING EXTRA SPECIAL TO TELL ALL YOU GOOD LI'L KIDS

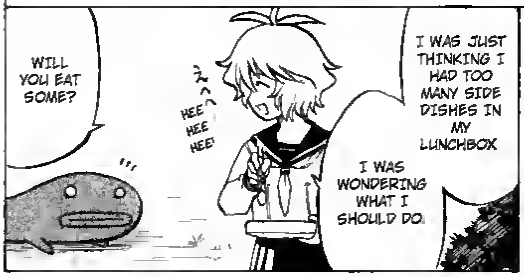


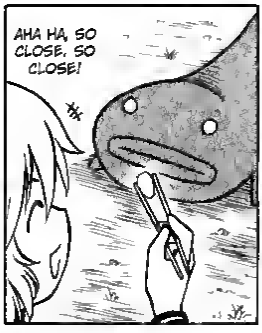

ON LIFE
I'M ALMOST LIKE A MASCOT.
MAINLY HOW THOSE LITTLE BRATS TREAT ME.
COME TO THINK OF IT, RECENTLY THIS OLD MAN...
..HAS HAD TO PUT UP WITH A LOT OF THINGS HE JUST CAN'T ACCEPT..
WOWIE ZOWIE!
OH, I WAS A REAL HIT WITH THE LADIES.
HA HA HA!
STILL, BACK IN MY YOUNGER DAYS...
..I WAS A FAMOUS CITY BOY, RIGHT?
WHAT THE HELL?
THIS OLD MAN FEELS YOUR PAIN.
THEY'LL ONLY KEEP MAKING A FUSS OVER YOU FOR SO LONG...
HEY, KID.
TAP
TAP
たし
たし
OH.

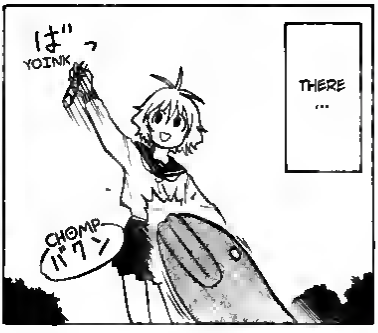
I'M VERY RARE, YOU KNOW!

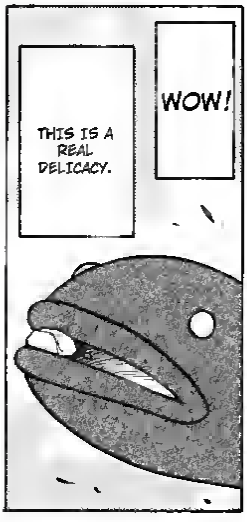
...
THAT GIRL IS ALWAYS TAKING PICTURES IF I RECALL CORRECTLY.
THAT'S THE NEW GIRL...
HMM
TAKE AS MANY SHOTS OF THIS OLD MAN AS YOU WANT!!
AH—
MR NATURE
SLITHER
THEN LET'S GIVE HER A SPECIAL SERVICE TODAY.
ナデ RUB RUB RUB RUB RUB
IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP THIS OLD MAN WILL...
HA HA HA, DON'T JUST KEEP RUBBING...
ナデ RUB
DO IT!!
NOW, THIS IS THE PERFECT CHANCE TO SNAP A PICTURE!!
SHE'S ONLY INTERESTED IN ME BECAUSE I'M NICE TO PAT?
THAT GIRL...
TCHAK
IT'S A PRETTY FLOWER ♪
WOW
CHANGE HIS ..

HURRAH FOR INSTINCTS

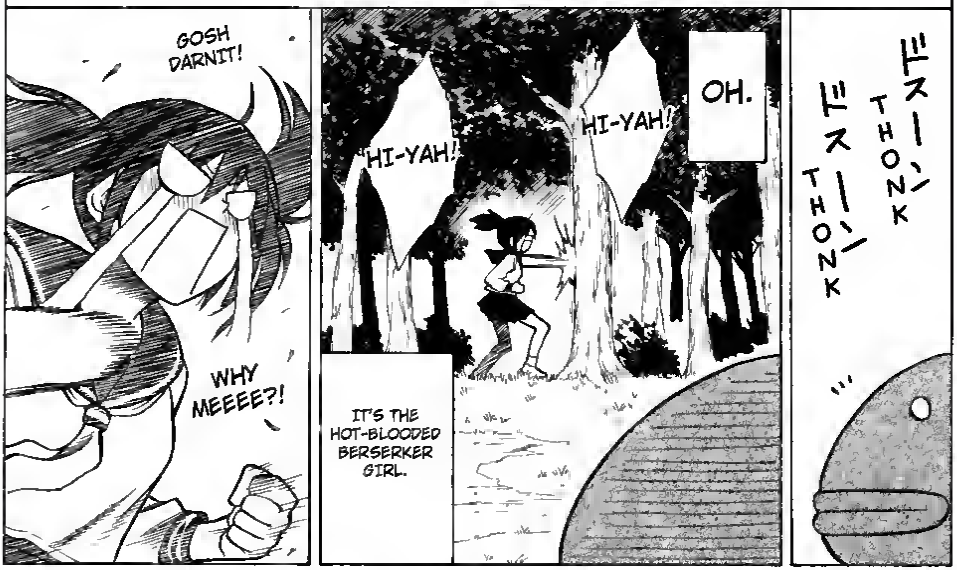


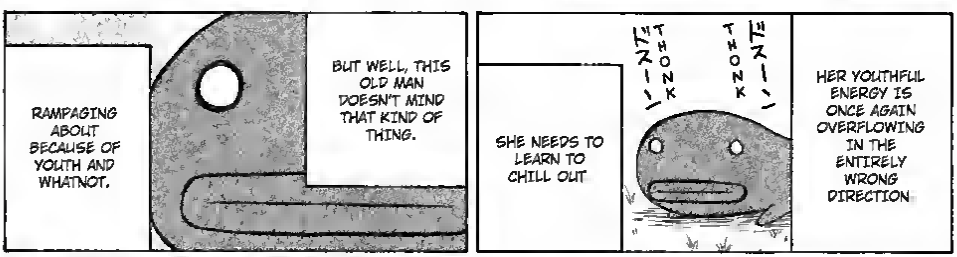


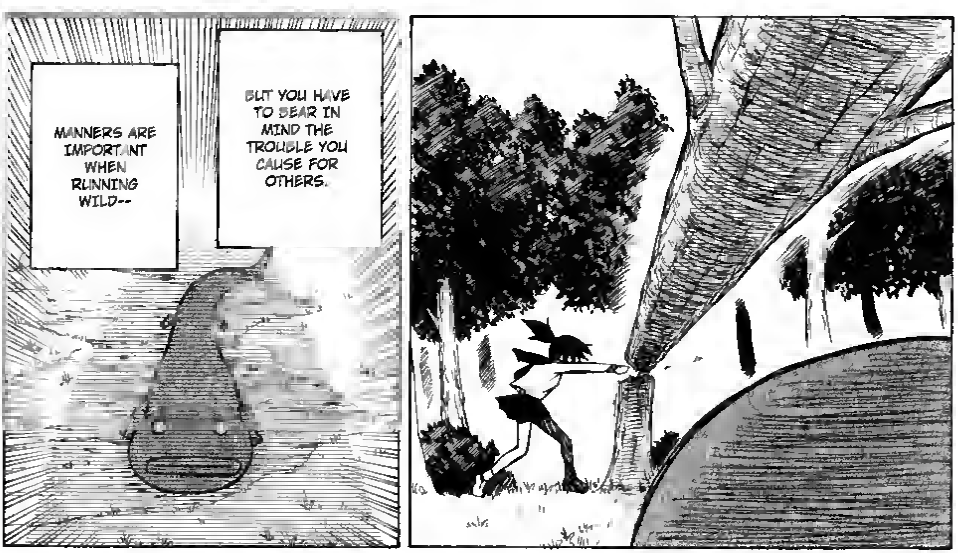


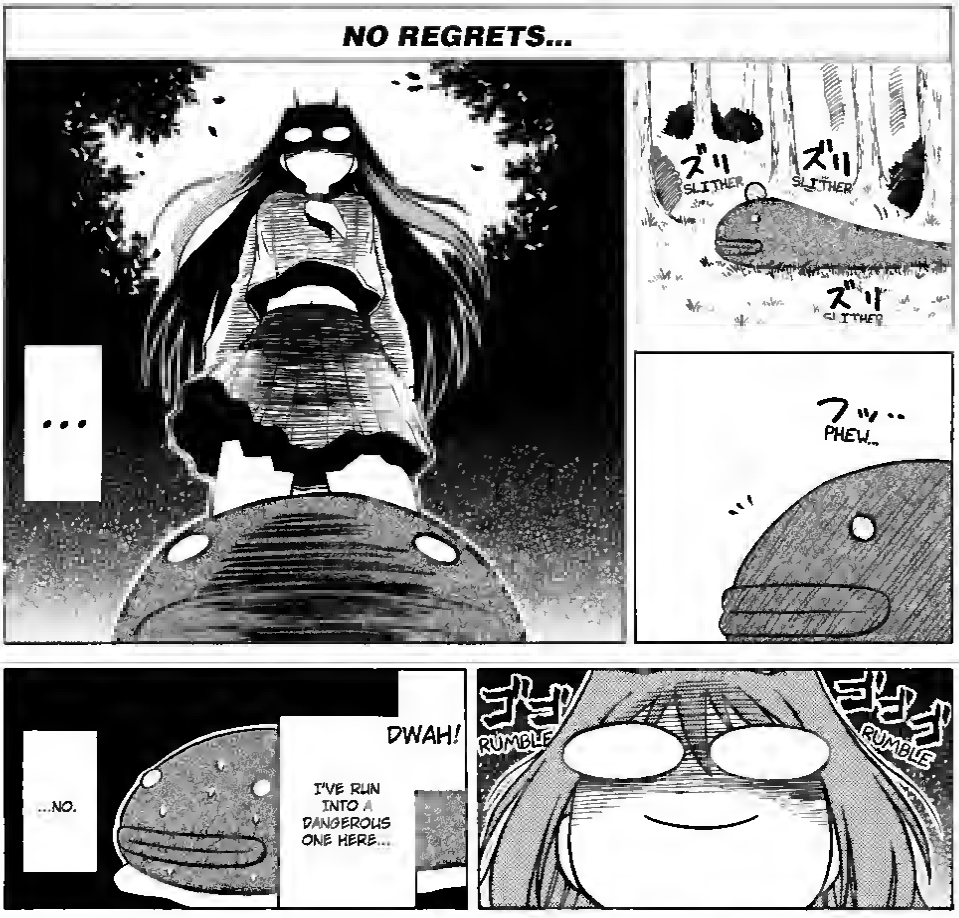


ON YOUTH AND MANNERS

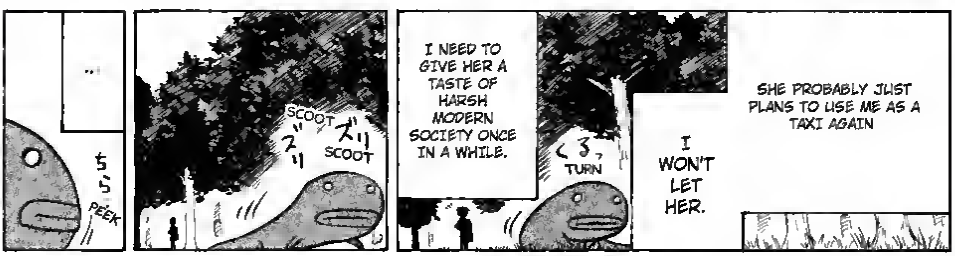


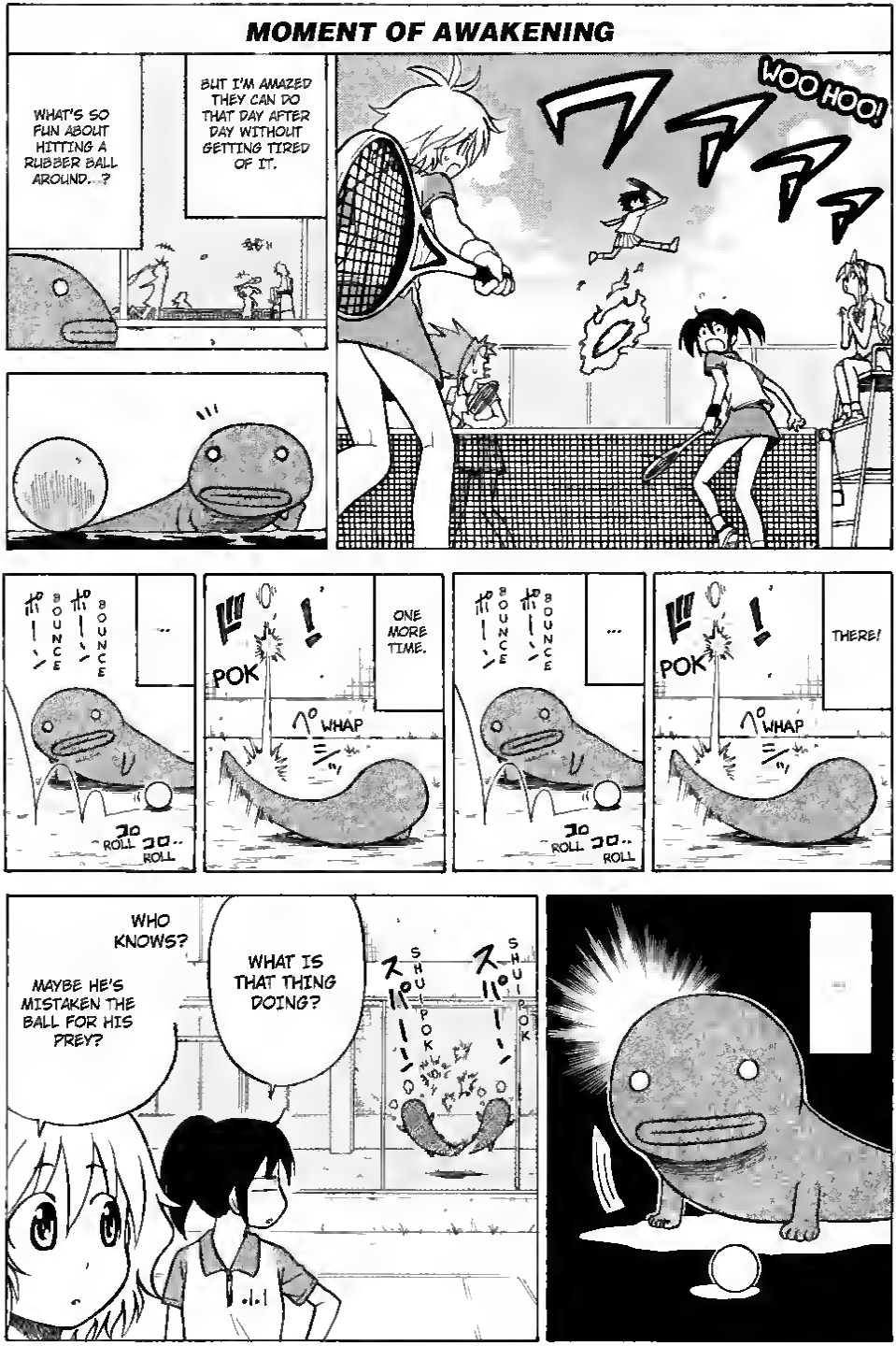

RAMPAGING ABOUT BECAUSE OF YOUTH AND WHATNOT.
BUT WELL, THIS OLD MAN DOESN'T MIND THAT KIND OF THING.
SHE NEEDS TO LEARN TO CHILL OUT
ズーン THONK
ズーン THONK
HER YOUTHFUL ENERGY IS ONCE AGAIN OVERFLOWING IN THE ENTIRELY WRONG DIRECTION



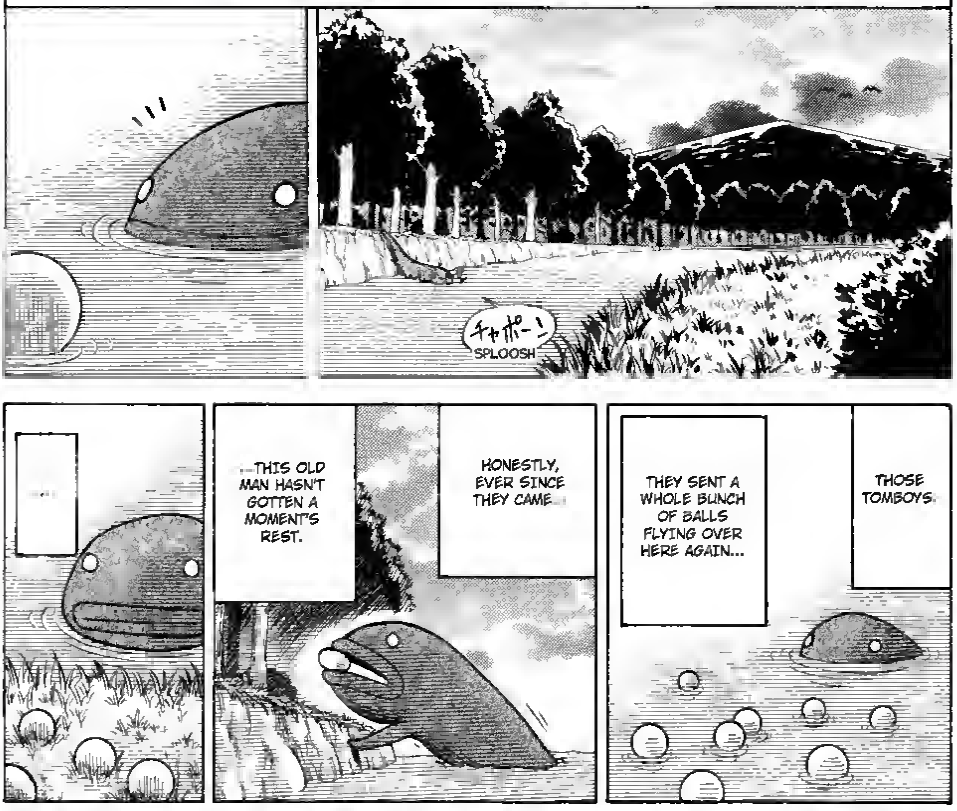

NO REGRETS...
...
ズリ SLITHER
ズリ SLITHER
ズリ SLITHER
フゥ... PHEW...
...NO.
DWAH!
I'VE RUN INTO A DANGEROUS ONE HERE...
ゴゴゴ RUMBLE
ゴゴゴ RUMBLE
...SHE IS DEFINITELY NOT IMAGINING HOW I MIGHT TASTE SAUTÉED.
SO WHEN SHE LICKS ME ALL OVER LIKE SHE IS RIGHT NOW...
SLURP
SLURP
SHE HASN'T ATTACKED ME SINCE...
THERE SHOULD BE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
I'VE ALREADY MADE PEACE WITH THIS ONE
NOW I CAN'T SEE YOU AS FOOD ANYMORE!
AFTER YOU'VE DONE THIS FOR ME, I

A SHREWD BARGAINER


...
ちら PEEK
SCOOT ズリ ズリ SCOOT
I NEED TO GIVE HER A TASTE OF HARSH MODERN SOCIETY ONCE IN A WHILE.
くる TURN
I WON'T LET HER.
SHE PROBABLY JUST PLANS TO USE ME AS A TAXI AGAIN


MOMENT OF AWAKENING
WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT HITTING A RUBBER BALL AROUND...?
BUT I'M AMAZED THEY CAN DO THAT DAY AFTER DAY WITHOUT GETTING TIRED OF IT.
WOO HOO!
BOUNCE
ボーン
ROLL
コロ..
ONE MORE TIME.
POK
WHAP
THERE!
WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE HE'S MISTAKEN THE BALL FOR HIS PREY?
WHAT IS THAT THING DOING?
SHU
POK

A MEMENTO OF THEIR TIES


チャポーン
SPLOOSH
...
...THIS OLD MAN HASN'T GOTTEN A MOMENT'S REST.
HONESTLY, EVER SINCE THEY CAME...
THEY SENT A WHOLE BUNCH OF BALLS FLYING OVER HERE AGAIN...
THOSE TOMBOYS.
...AT LEAST I'M NEVER BORED.
WELL, THANKS TO THAT...

TEXT FIGHT, Y'ALL

第18ゲーム とりっぷ
GAME 18 - TRIP

AH ...!
ZWA-POK
SINCE THAT TRAINING CAMP KOTONE HAS KEPT PROGRESSING.
AND YET...
I...
I...I'M SORRY.
HONESTLY NOW.
HAA
HAAH
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, ASUNA?!
HEY!
HAAH...
HFF
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO TRUST YOU TO WATCH MY BACK AT THE TOURNAMENT LIKE THIS?!
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RETURN THAT!

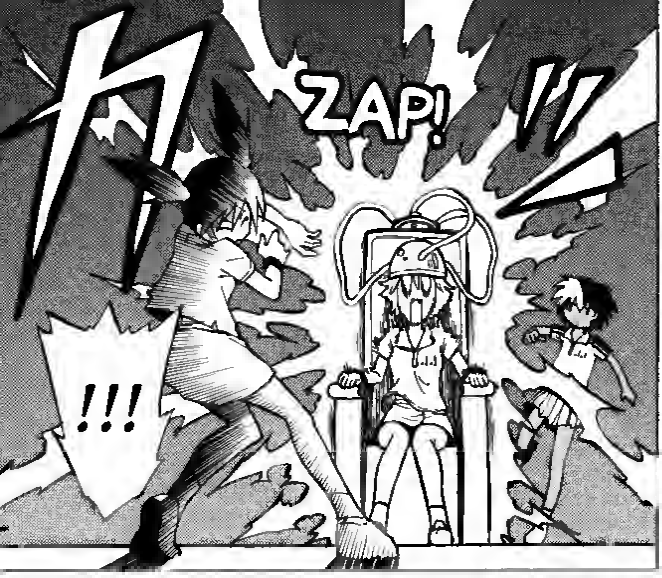
WHACK
HIIYAAAAH!
AW YE H!
I KNEW THERE WAS A GAP BETWEEN KOTONE'S PHYSICAL ABILITIES AND MY OWN.
KOTONE HAS SOMETHING..
...THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WISH FOR, I NEVER WILL
HOW LONG CAN I KEEP UP WITH HER?
AS HER PARTNER
WILL I ALWAYS BE ABLE TO PROUDLY..
STAND...

トゥルパー！
BONK!
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?!
I WAS SURE SHE HAD DIED.
OH, GOOD! IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S CONSCIOUS.
...
HUH ...?
HEY...! YOU CAN'T JUST SHIFT THE BLAME LIKE THAT!
THE OIL FROM THE FRIED BREAD KOTONE-CHAN GAVE ME CAUSED IT TO SLIP...
I... I'M SORRY, ASUNA-CHAN.
シュウウウ
SIZZLE
WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE AGAIN?
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...
...
...
...
UMM ...

GAME 18 – TRIP

WHAT DO WE DO...? THERE'S NO CLEAR WAY OF TREATING...
HOW... H-H-H-HOW DO WE MAKE HER RECOVER?!
AMNESIA ...
THAT'S WHAT THIS IS.
DOES YOUR BODY REMEMBER HOW TO PLAY SOFT TENNIS?!
SWOOSH
THA..THAT'S RIGHT. WHAT ABOUT TENNIS?!
C-CALM DOWN, KOTONE-CHAN!!
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL HER
WHAP WHAP WHAP WHAP WHAP
SHOCK THERAPY. SHOCK THERAPY!
NOPE ..
GODDAMN!!
I DO BELIEVE IT'S COMPLETELY LEFT HER MIND.
OOH!

A GIRL PREPARED FOR ANYTHING


ZAP!
!!!

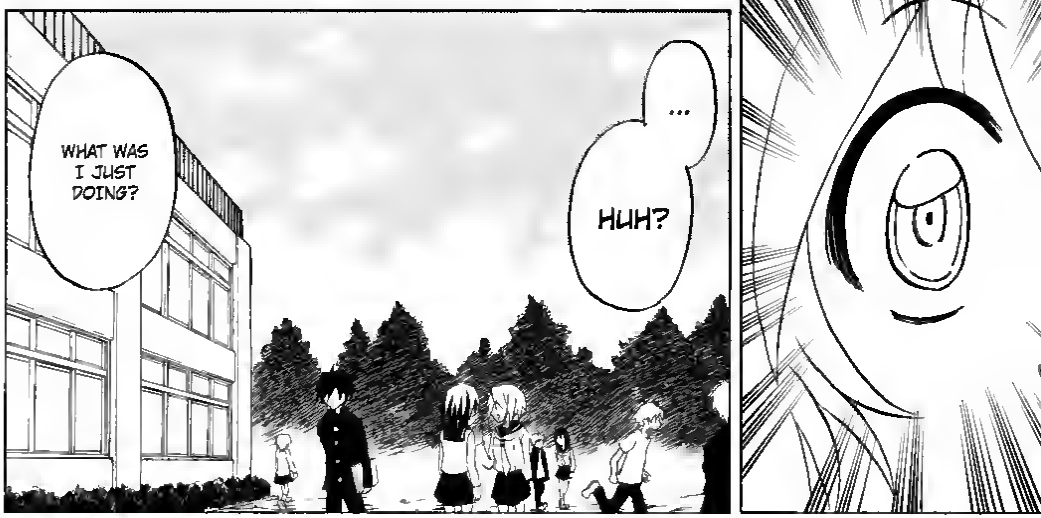
JUST KIDDING ...
PRESS
ポチッ

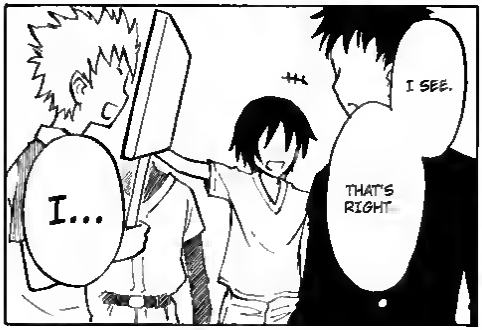
ER... ISN'T THIS KIND OF DANGEROUS?
NO PROBLEM
ゴォォォォ
GAAAAH
SHE'S JUST GOING ON A LITTLE TRIP.

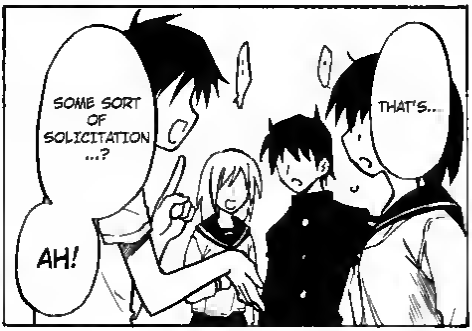
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT

...
TO THE PAST.

TO WHERE, EXACTLY?
A TRIP ...?
?


WHAT WAS I JUST DOING?
...
HUH?


I...
I SEE.
THAT'S RIGHT


SOME SORT OF SOLICITATION ...?
AH!
THAT'S...

STARTED MIDDLE SCHOOL THIS SPRING, DIDN'T I?
AND I WAS LOOKING FOR A CLUB TO JOIN...

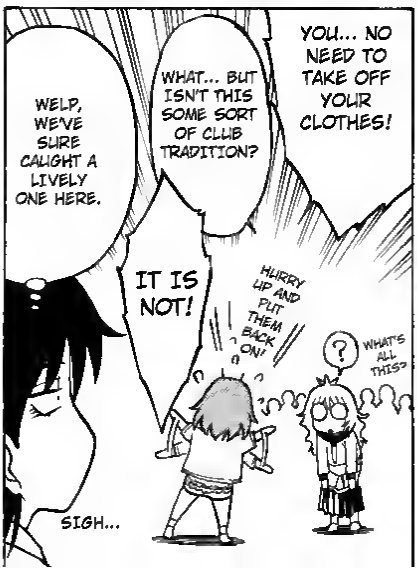
WHOA WHOA!
NO, JOIN THE TRENDY CHINESE FOOD CLUB.
MFF MFF MWAH!!
H-HEY GIRLIE, YOU GOT ANY INTEREST IN BOXERCISE?
RUUUMBLE
HUH?
BUT IF I'M GOING TO THE TROUBLE OF JOINING ONE...
SURE, I'M CURIOUS ABOUT A FEW DIFFERENT CLUBS.
AH, THAT WAS A SHOCK.
I'M KIND OF IN A HURRY.
TUP TUP TUP..TUP
THERE WILL BE SO MANY ENTRANCED BY MY WOMANLY POWER...
BUT THEN BY GRADUATION TIME...
SCUFF
SCUFF
SCUFF
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT, BUT...
ONE THAT'LL DEVELOP MY WOMANLINESS IS BEST!
UMM...
CAN WE PLEASE STOP?

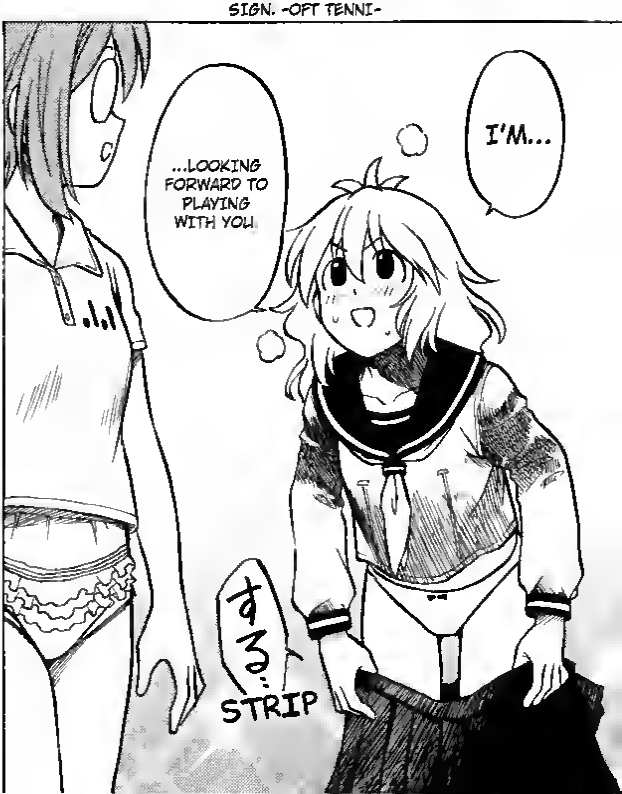
SIGN: SOFT TENNIS CLUB

BUT DON'T YOU THINK THIS MIGHT END UP TURNING PEOPLE AWAY?
WE'RE A GIRLS-ONLY CLUB
WELL, YES, SHIKI-SENPAI.
WELL... IF IT HAPPENS IT HAPPENS.

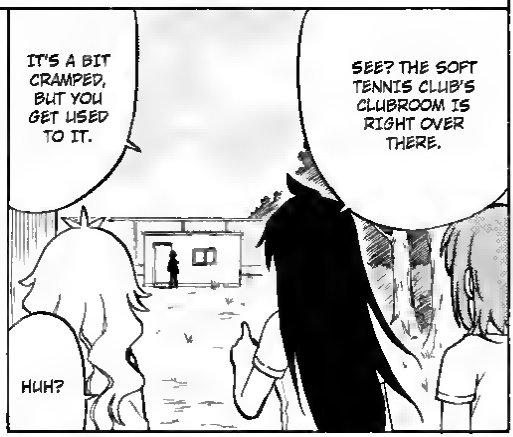
I THINK THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'D BE ATTRACTED BY THIS WOULD BE MORE FUN.
...
FUN...?
BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'LL FIND ANYONE LIKE THAT.
THAT SORT...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
THERE'S ONE RIGHT NOW.
...
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...!!
HUH?
THE SOFT TENNIS CLUB...?

SIGN. -OFT TENNI-


WELP, WE'VE SURE CAUGHT A LIVELY ONE HERE.
WHAT... BUT ISN'T THIS SOME SORT OF CLUB TRADITION?
YOU... NO NEED TO TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES!
IT IS NOT!
HURRY UP AND PUT THEM BACK ON!
?
WHAT'S ALL THIS?
SIGH...



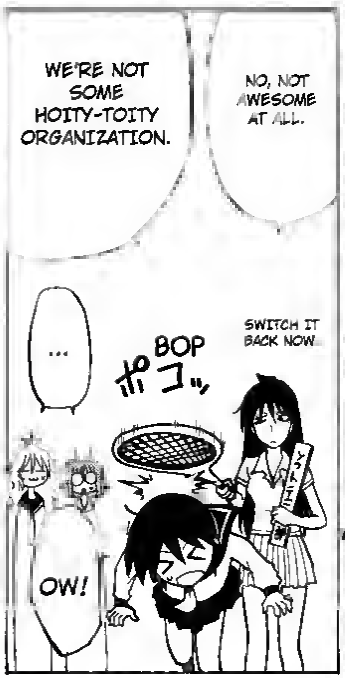
THE HARD-TYPE ARRIVES



SIGN: SOFT TENNIS CLUB

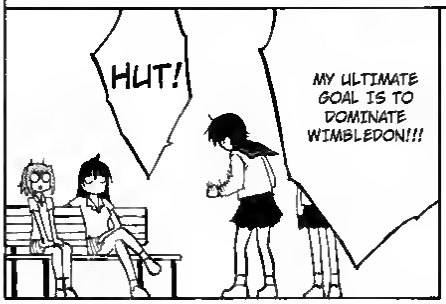
SIGN: SOFT TENNIS CLUB

SIGN SOFT TENNIS CLUB

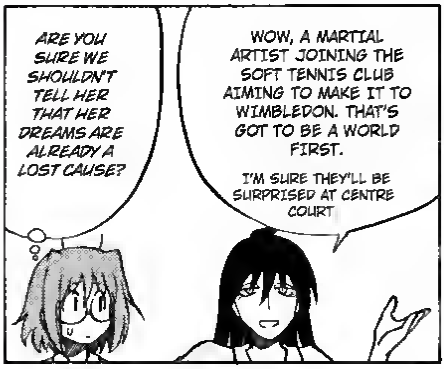


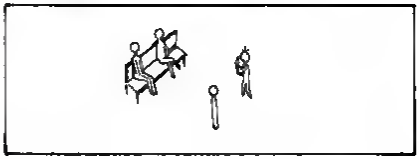
SIGN: SOFT TENNIS CLUB

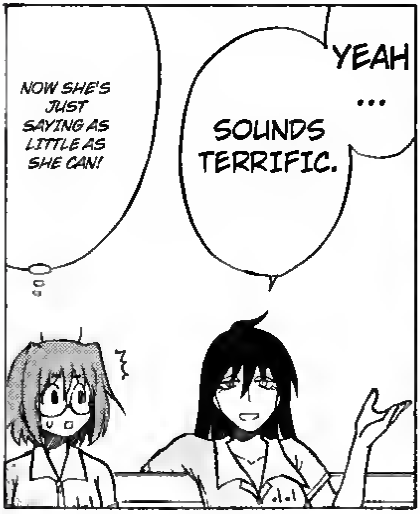
FLAMING INTRODUCTIONS

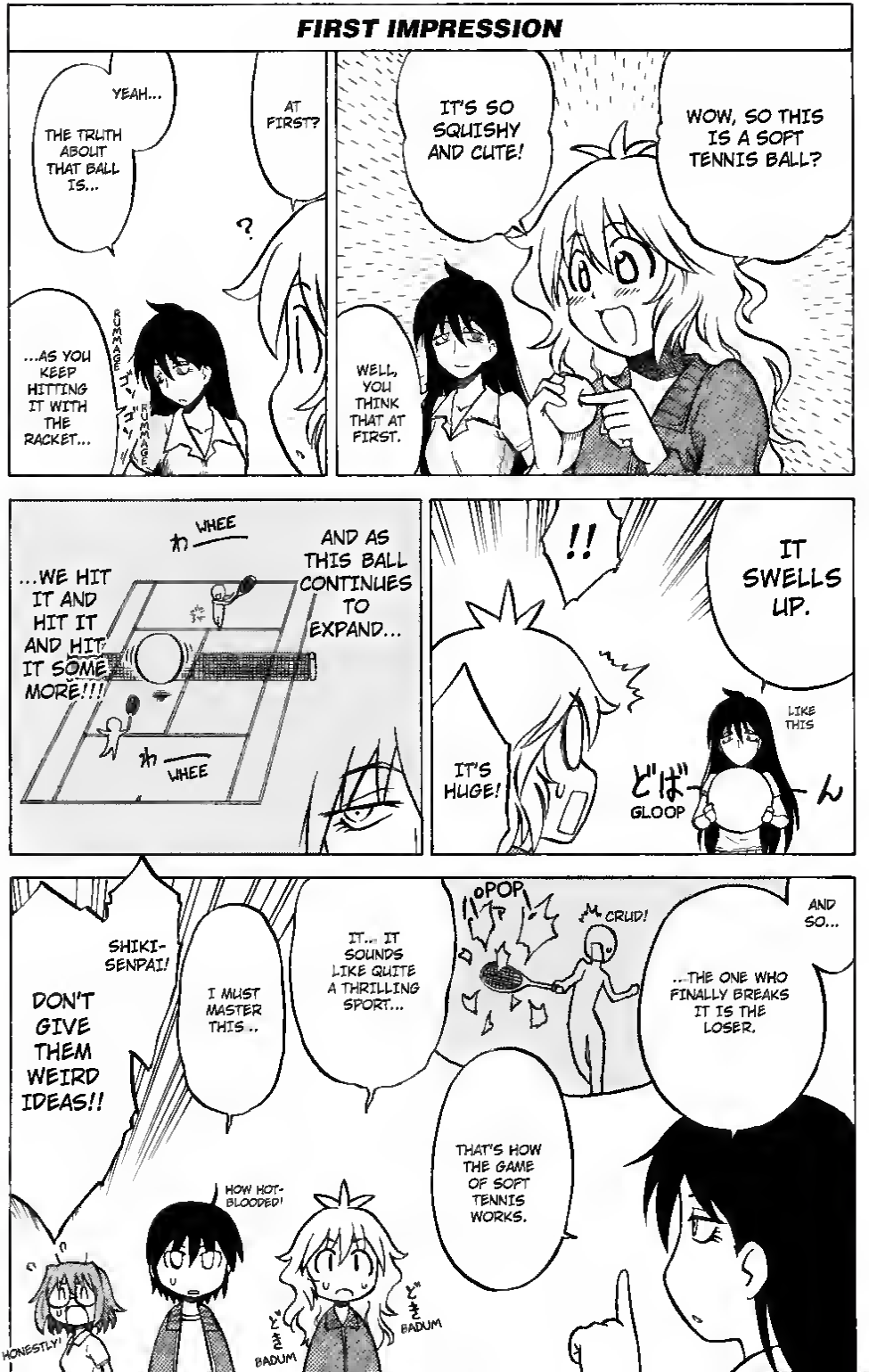


I AM FIRST YEAR SAWANATSU KOTONE.
DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES, STARTING TODAY I WILL BE UNDER THE CARE OF THE SOFT TENNIS CLUB.
TA-DAH!


ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULDN'T TELL HER THAT HER DREAMS ARE ALREADY A LOST CAUSE?
WOW, A MARTIAL ARTIST JOINING THE SOFT TENNIS CLUB AIMING TO MAKE IT TO WIMBLEDON. THAT'S GOT TO BE A WORLD FIRST.
I'M SURE THEY'LL BE SURPRISED AT CENTRE COURT.






FIRST IMPRESSION
YEAH...
THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT BALL IS...
AT FIRST?
?
...AS YOU KEEP HITTING IT WITH THE RACKET...
FUMMAGU
IT'S SO SQUISHY AND CUTE!
WOW, SO THIS IS A SOFT TENNIS BALL?
WELL, YOU THINK THAT AT FIRST.
...WE HIT IT AND HIT IT AND HIT IT SOME MORE!!!
WHEE
WHEE
AND AS THIS BALL CONTINUES TO EXPAND...
!!
IT SWELLS UP.
IT'S HUGE!
LIKE THIS
GLOOP
SHIKI-SENPAI!
DON'T GIVE THEM WEIRD IDEAS!!
I MUST MASTER THIS..
IT... IT SOUNDS LIKE QUITE A THRILLING SPORT...
POP
CRUD!
AND SO...
...THE ONE WHO FINALLY BREAKS IT IS THE LOSER.
THAT'S HOW THE GAME OF SOFT TENNIS WORKS.
HOW HOT-BLOODED!
HONESTLY!
BADUM
BADUM

GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US
HERE I GO...
ONE, TWO ...
POING
GOD...!
OH... OKAY, ARE YOU WATCHING?
WHY NOT? DO A DEMO, CHITOSE.
WHA!?
AH, I WANT TO SEE TOO.
UMM, CHITOSE-SENPAI, COULD YOU SHOW US A COOL WAY TO HIT THE BALL?
HEH HEH ...
ZHAPOK!
GIVE ME STRENGTH!
THERE!!
GASP!
...WELL.
THIS MUCH IS THE MOST BASIC OF ALL BASICS.
IT WAS EASY
SHE JUST SAID "I DID IT."
AHEM! コホン
I... I DID IT.
I HIT IT. ♪
I REALLY, ACTUALLY MANAGED TO HIT IT...
WOW, THAT WAS GREAT.
SQUEAL
きゃあ

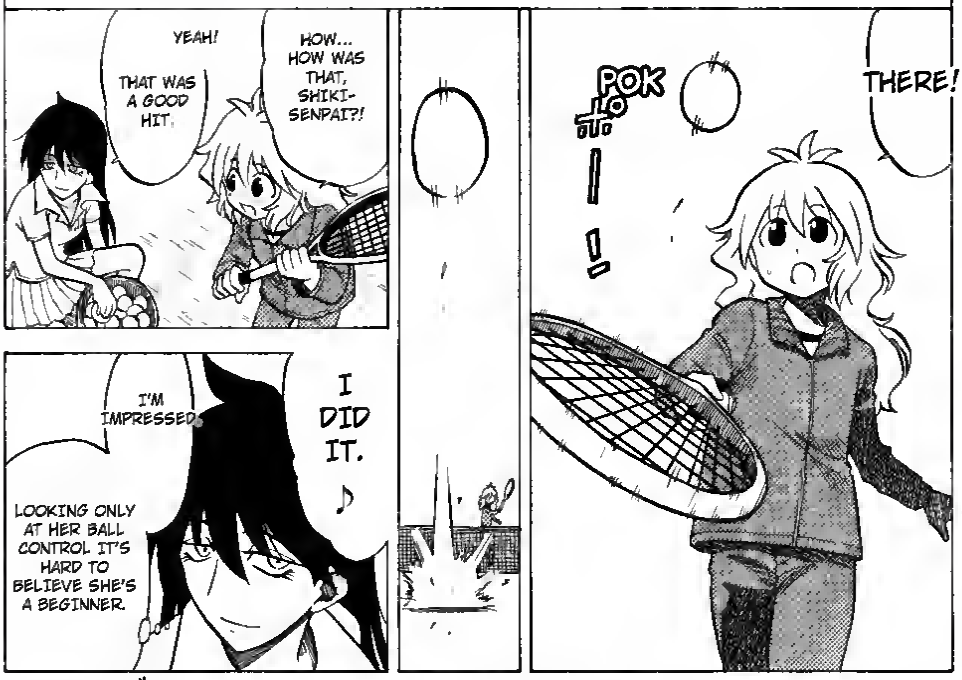
KARATE INSTINCTS

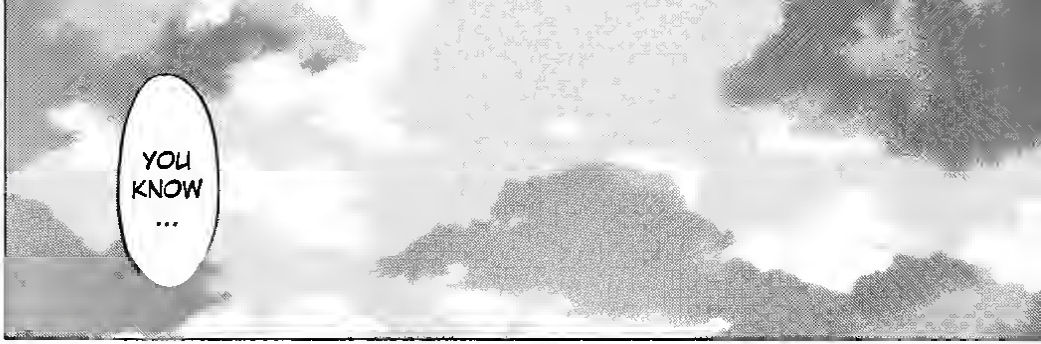
OH
DOING A ONE BOUND VOLLEY?
IT'S BEEN SO LONG...
YES.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR THEM TO LEARN HOW IT FEELS TO STOP THE BALL IN FRONT OF THEIR FACE.
BOP ポーン
BOP ポーン
BOP ポーン
HO!
...
SPOK
HAAH!
POK
...ARE ALL AIMED PRECISELY AT MY WEAK SPOTS.
IF I LET DOWN MY GUARD SHE'LL KILL ME
BECAUSE SAWANATSU-SAN'S VOLLEYS...
RELAX?
NO FRIGGIN' WAY!
BECAUSE ...
YOU'RE RIGHT. THEY SHOULD RELAX A BIT.
STILL, THERE'S A STRANGE TENSION BETWEEN THEM.

AN ELEGANT BOUNCE

THE YOUNG QUEEN OF DELUSION'S POWER OF EXPRESSION
YOU AREN'T GOING TO TEACH US?!
HUH!?
TRY HITTING THEM HOWEVER YOU LIKE.
NOW THEN... I WAS THINKING IT'S TIME WE HAD YOU ACTUALLY HIT SOME BALLS.
SO, TO START OUT...
.I.I
!!
EXPRESS YOUR OWN STYLE WITH YOUR ENTIRE BODY.
THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING HERE
IF YOU HAVE 100 PLAYERS WOULDN'T IT BE MORE INTERESTING FOR THEM TO HAVE 100 UNIQUE STYLES?
I'M NOT FOND OF GETTING STUCK ON SET PATTERNS.
I SWEAR, IT'S NOT BECAUSE I'M LAZY OR ANYTHING
I'LL GO FIND SOME AWESOME MUSIC THAT'LL MAKE THEIR HEARTS MELT.
HANG ON A SEC.
?
STRUT
STRUT
...WITH MY ENTIRE BODY!
BRING IT ON ♡
EXPRESS MY OWN STYLE...

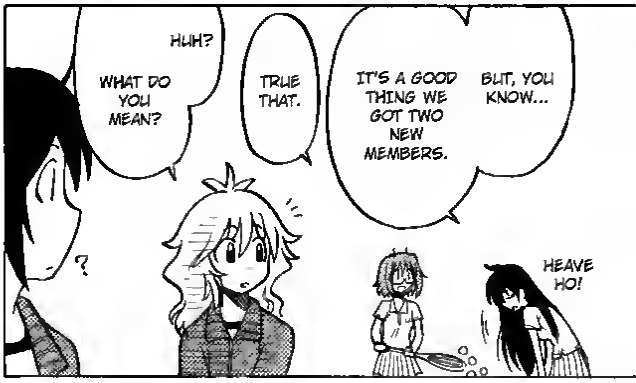
HEAR THE SOUND OF TALENT BLOSSOMING


HOW... HOW WAS THAT, SHIKI-SENPAI?!
YEAH! THAT WAS A GOOD HIT.
POK
THERE!
I DID IT. ♪
I'M IMPRESSED.
LOOKING ONLY AT HER BALL CONTROL IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE SHE'S A BEGINNER.
GRRAAAH! うおおおぉ...
NOW THEN. HOW'S OUR OTHER ROOKIE, WHO'S PROUD OF HER STRENGTH, DOING?
I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST AN EASYGOING PERVERT.
BUT IF SHE DEVELOPS SOME STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE SHE'LL BE AN INTERESTING PLAYER.
STEADY AS SHE GOES.
THAT GIRL.
カッ HOME RUN! キーン!
...
DWAH!
STREEEEENGTH!
I'M... FULL... OF...


YOU KNOW ...

THIS STUFF IS ALWAYS ONLY FUN AT FIRST.
DUMMY.
THIS IS NEW TO ME, SO IT'S PRETTY FUN.
IT WAS SO MUCH TROUBLE UP UNTIL NOW.
HAVING FOUR MEMBERS REALLY MAKES CLEANING THE COURT GO FAST.
HMM...? IS THAT HOW IT IS?
SHUFF
SHUFF

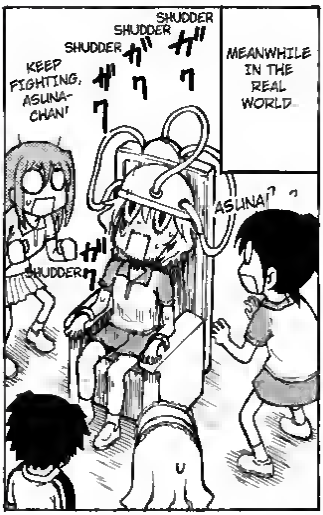
OH, YEAH ...
I HADN'T MENTIONED IT YET.


HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
TRUE THAT.
IT'S A GOOD THING WE GOT TWO NEW MEMBERS.
BUT, YOU KNOW...
?
HEAVE HO!

DOUBLES IS THE STANDARD IN SOFT TENNIS.
IN OTHER WORDS ...
YOU TWO TOGETHER MAKE ONE PAIR.
THEY'RE BOTH FIRST YEARS SO IT'S JUST ABOUT PERFECT, RIGHT?
PROTECTING?
AND I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL PROTECTING THIS KID, YOU KNOW.
..
DOUBLES...
SO WE'RE A PAIR.
SA... SAWANATSU-SAN.
W-WELL, YOU HEARD HER. I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO...
I'LL PASS.
...
HUH?
SORRY ABOUT THIS.
SNFF

I FIGHT ALONE.

BUT WHAT I WANT TO SEE IS MY OWN POTENTIAL.
TO SEE HOW FAR I CAN GO IN A NEW STAGE.
IF THERE'S ANYONE ELSE HELPING ME, THEN IT'S MEANINGLESS.
THAT'S WHY...


MEANWHILE IN THE REAL WORLD
KEEP FIGHTING, ASUNA-CHAN!
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
ASUNA!

ヒュオ WHOOSH オオオオ
...LOOK ELSEWHERE.
IF YOU REALLY WANT A PARTNER ...
オオ..

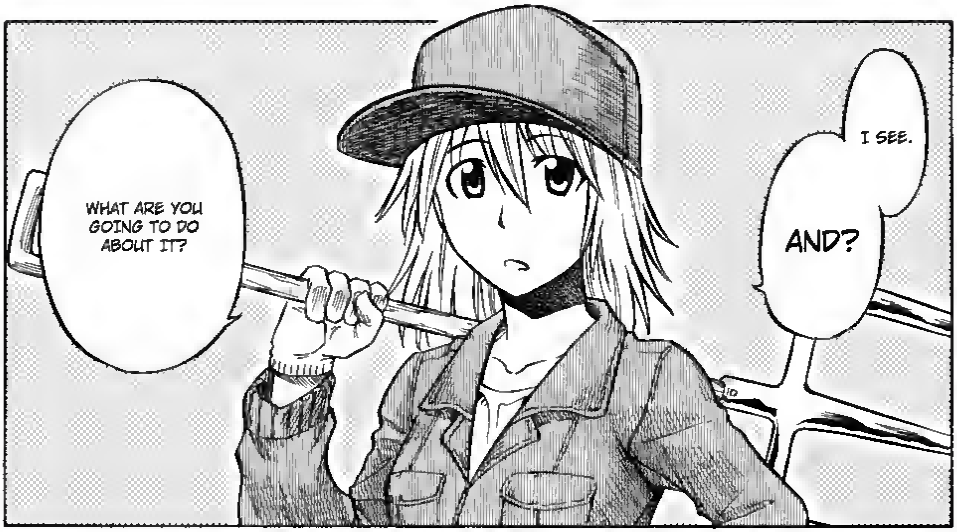
I FIGHT ALONE.
IF YOU REALLY WANT A PARTNER...
...LOOK ELSEWHERE.
BU...BUT SAWANATSU-SAN!!!
WAIT JUST A...
BESIDES, THAT'S NOT EVEN THE ISSUE.
HUH ...?
I HATE THEM, YOU KNOW.
FLIGHTY, SHALLOW GIRLS LIKE YOU.

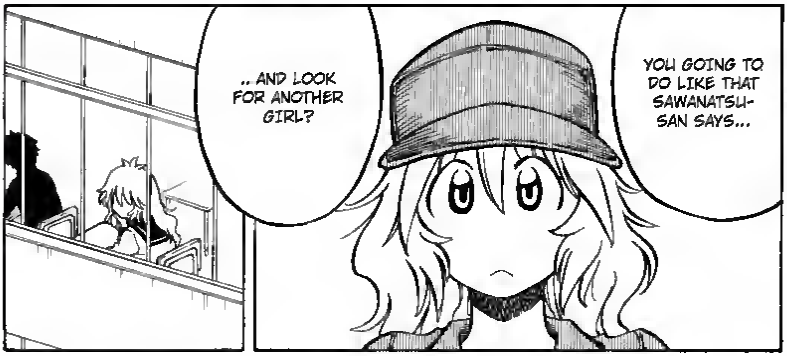
第19(だい)ゲーム りたーんっ

GAME 19 – RETURN

ZZZZT
...
A DREAM ...?
BZZZZZZ

...
MOM...
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU, ASUNA?
YOU DON'T GET TO SPACE OUT JUST BECAUSE IT'S EARLY.
DUCUCUK
SHK
SHK
SHK


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
I SEE.
AND?


.. AND LOOK FOR ANOTHER GIRL?
YOU GOING TO DO LIKE THAT SAWANATSU-SAN SAYS...

HUH...?
ABOUT THAT PARTNER OF YOURS?

HI, ALL.
KA-TCHAK

...I WOULDN'T STILL BE WORRYING LIKE THIS.
IF I HAD THAT ALL FIGURED OUT...
HARUKAZE! PAY ATTENTION!
SIGH..

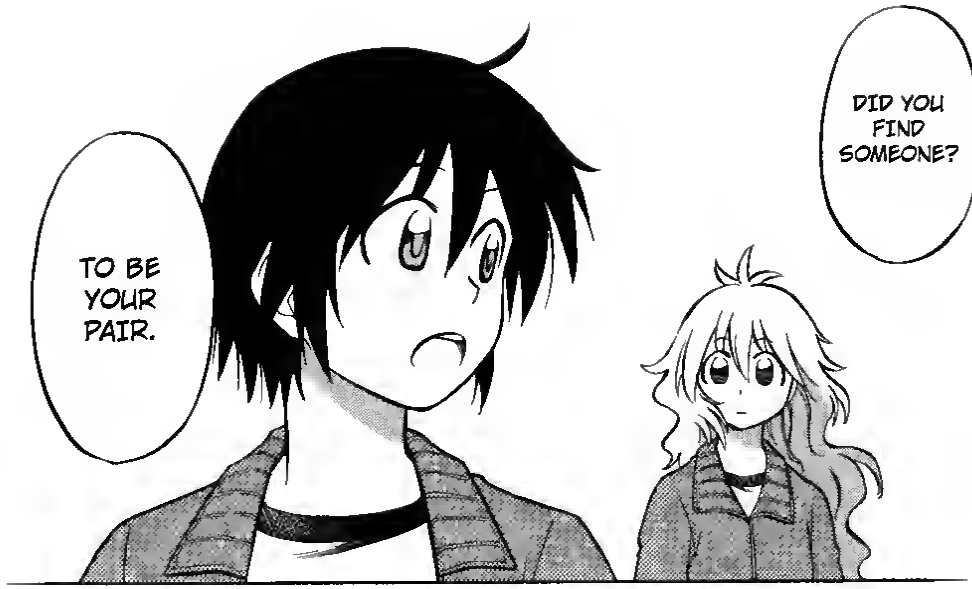
SAWANATSU-SAN..
BADUM
どぎゅ..

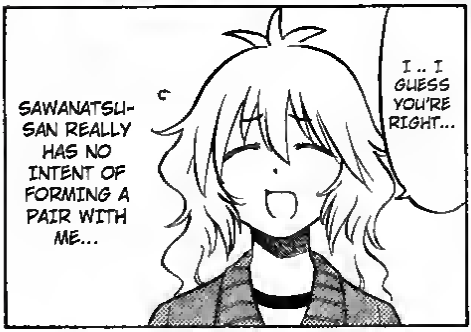
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
OH.
THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO COME TODAY BECAUSE OF CLASS DUTIES.
I... I SEE.

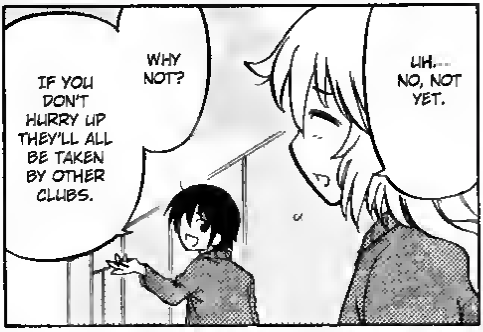
YO.

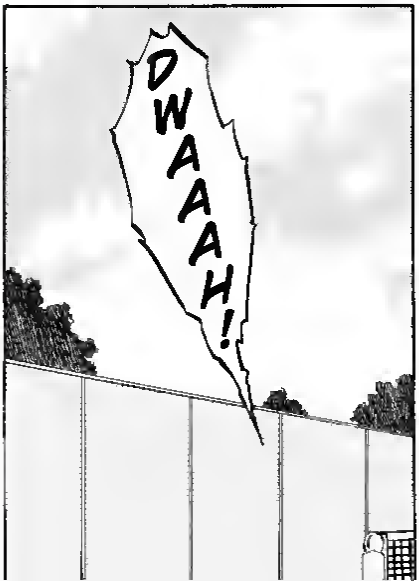
BY THE WAY, HARUKAZE-SAN.

THEN DOES THAT MEAN I'M ALL ALONE WITH SAWANATSU-SAN TODAY?
I HAD THAT WEIRD DREAM, TOO.
SO I'M KIND OF NERVOUS.
YEAH.
ガチャ
KA CHAK


DID YOU FIND SOMEONE?
TO BE YOUR PAIR.

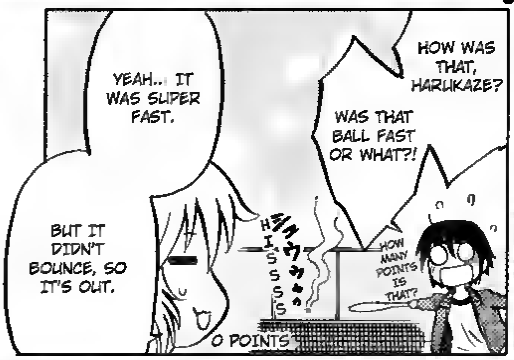

I.. I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
SAWANATSU-SAN REALLY HAS NO INTENT OF FORMING A PAIR WITH ME...

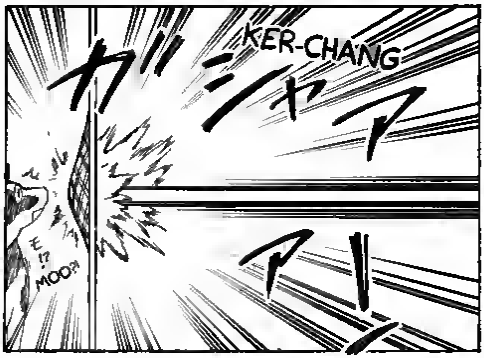

UH... NO, NOT YET.
WHY NOT?
IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP THEY'LL ALL BE TAKEN BY OTHER CLUBS.

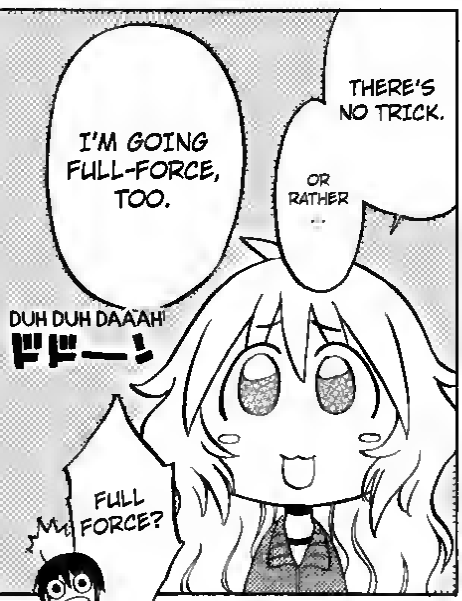

DWAAAH!

GUESS I'D BETTER START LOOKING...
THEY'RE DESPERATE FOR PEOPLE EVERYWHERE RIGHT NOW.
...FOR SOMEONE ELSE.

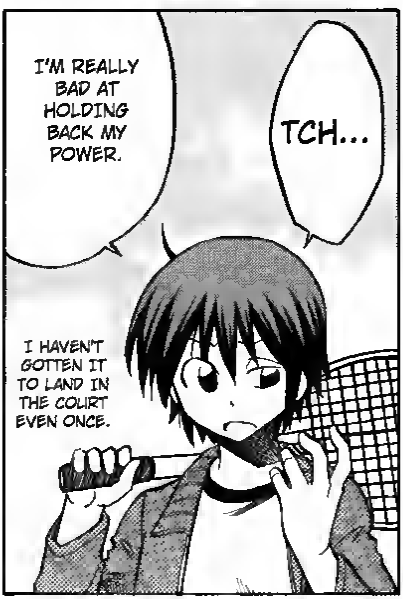
SWABAM
ドォ
ーン!
TAKE THAT!

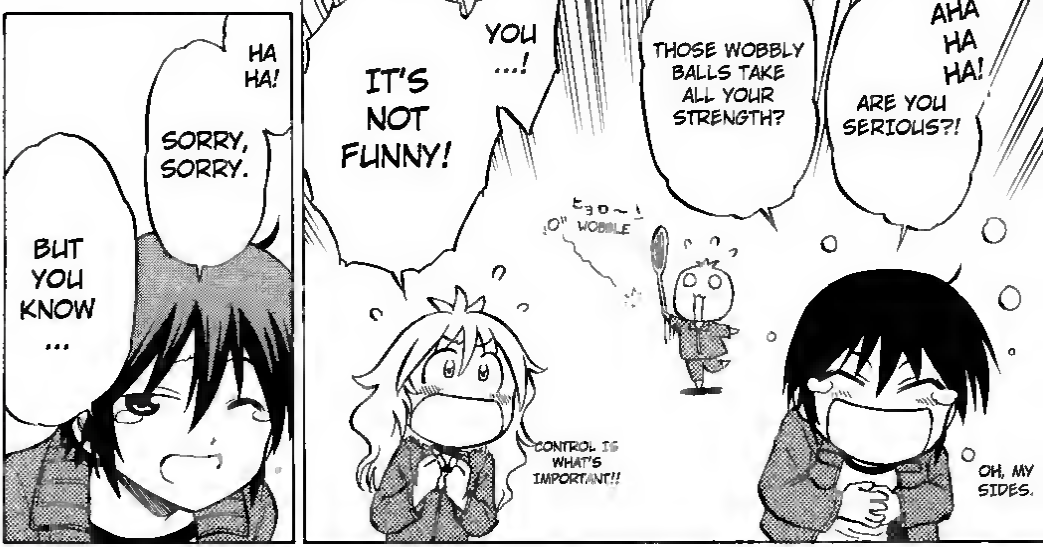

HOW WAS THAT, HARUKAZE?
WAS THAT BALL FAST OR WHAT?!
YEAH... IT WAS SUPER FAST.
BUT IT DIDN'T BOUNCE, SO IT'S OUT.
HOW MANY POINTS IS THAT?
0 POINTS

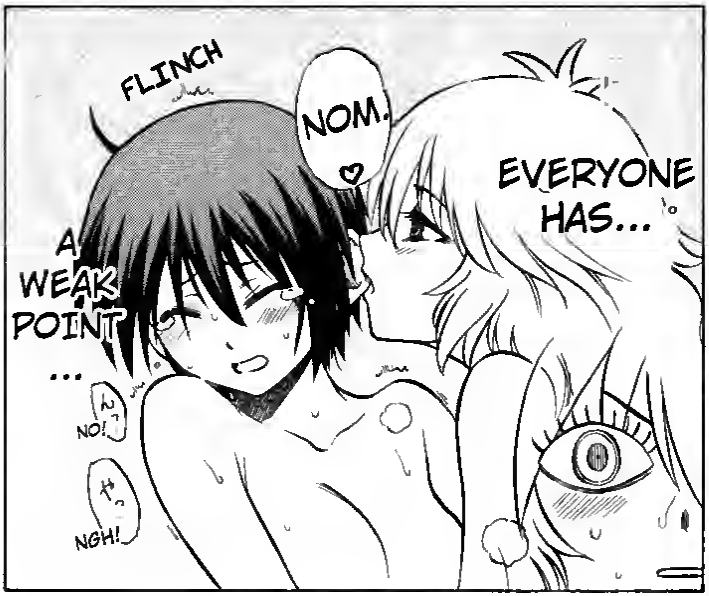

KER-CHANG
E!?
MOO?


I'M GOING FULL-FORCE, TOO.
THERE'S NO TRICK.
OR RATHER...
DUH DUH DAAAH!
ドドーン!
FULL FORCE?

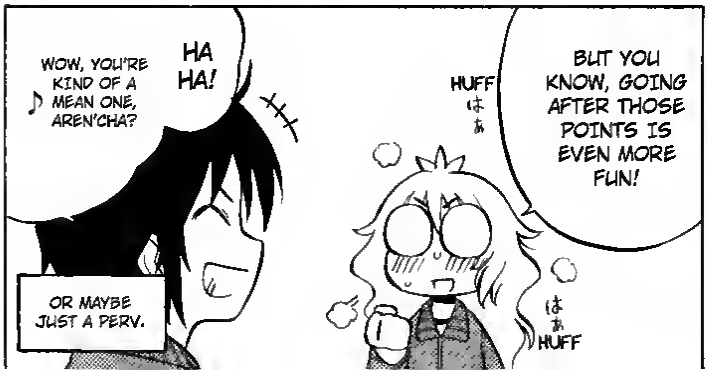
ON THAT FRONT, YOU'RE WAY BETTER THAN I AM, HARUKAZE-SAN.
IF YOU'VE GOT SOME SORT OF TRICK, THEN TEACH ME.
HUH?
TRICK?


I'M REALLY BAD AT HOLDING BACK MY POWER.
TCH...
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN IT TO LAND IN THE COURT EVEN ONCE.


HA HA!
SORRY, SORRY.
BUT YOU KNOW ...
YOU ...!
IT'S NOT FUNNY!
CONTROL IS WHAT'S IMPORTANT!!
THOSE WOBBLY BALLS TAKE ALL YOUR STRENGTH?
WOBBLE
AHA HA HA!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
OH, MY SIDES.

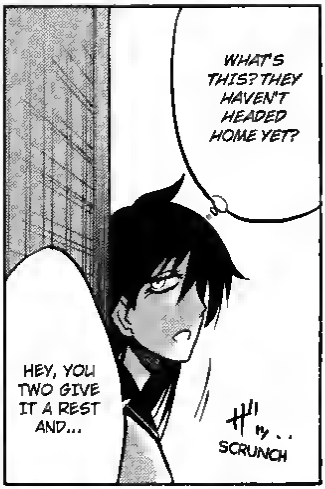

FLINCH
NOM.
EVERYONE HAS...
A WEAK POINT ...
NO!
NGH!

WE ALL HAVE OUR WEAK POINTS...
...AND THEY'RE DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE.
!!!


WOW, YOU'RE KIND OF A MEAN ONE, AREN'CHA?
HA HA!
OR MAYBE JUST A PERV.
HUFF はぁ
BUT YOU KNOW, GOING AFTER THOSE POINTS IS EVEN MORE FUN!
はぁ HUFF

ALL RIGHT!! I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO PUT IN MORE POWER.
AND YOU SHOW ME HOW TO PUT IN LESS, HARUKAZE.
WHAAA?!
I CAN'T TEACH YOU THAT!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU I WAS USING ALL MY STRENGTH?
GIVE AND TAKE, YOU KNOW.
YEAH, YEAH. JUST KEEP IT UP.
♪
PHEW..
SCRUNCH

SIGN: SOFT TENNIS CLUB



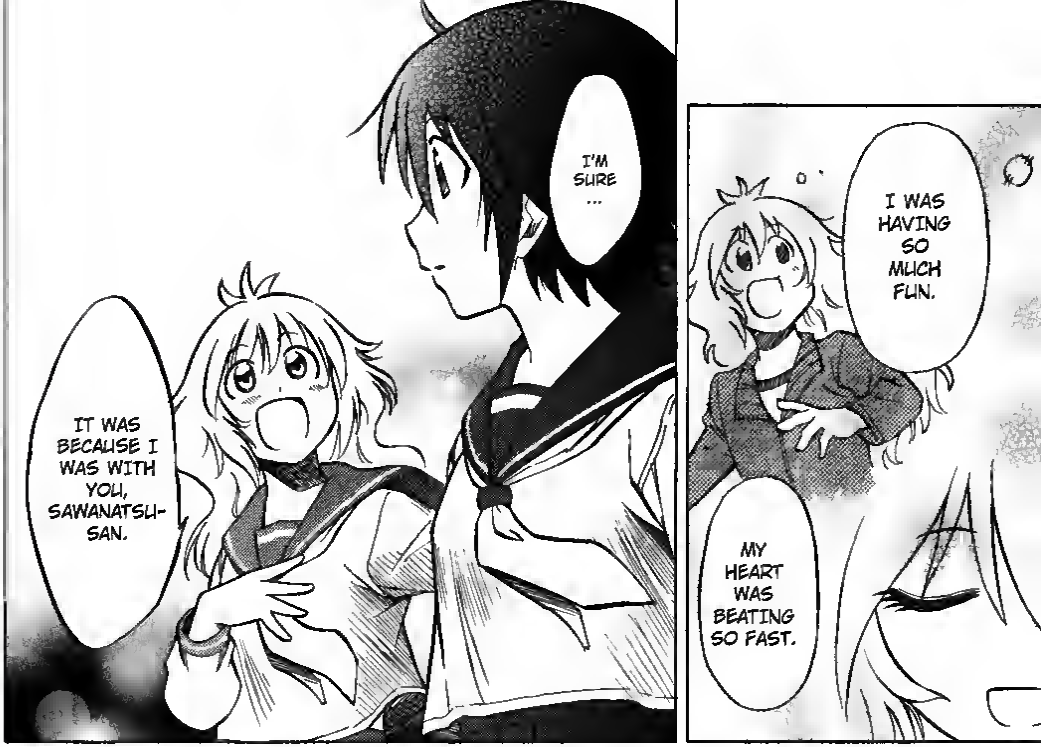
SO, SAWANATSU-SAN, WHAT ARE WE DOING NEXT...?
OKAY!

IT'S GOTTEN SO DARK OUT...
I DIDN'T NOTICE AT ALL...
HARUKAZE, LET'S CALL IT A NIGHT
WOW, THAT SURE WAS FUN!
I NEVER KNEW THAT COULD HAPPEN.
I GOT SO INVOLVED THAT I LOST TRACK OF TIME.
HEY, SAWANATSU-SAN...
HUH?
WHAT'S UP?
NO BIGGIE. I'M STILL JUST GETTING STARTED ♪
OUT IS STILL OUT THOUGH.
YEAH, I THINK YOU MAY BE SENDING IT OVER THE FENCE LESS NOW.
I GET THE FEELING I DEVELOPED A LOT OVER THE COURSE OF THE DAY!

I REALLY ...
...WANT TO FORM A PAIR WITH YOU, SAWANATSU-SAN.

HA...
HARUKAZE, YOU...
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME YESTERDAY?

I DON'T WANT TO BE PARTNERS WITH ANYONE.
SO I SAID LOOK FOR SOMEONE EL--!
NUH-UH!
...
THIS--!
THIS WAS A FIRST FOR ME.
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER GOTTEN SO CAUGHT UP IN SOMETHING I LOST TRACK OF TIME.
"NUH-UH"?

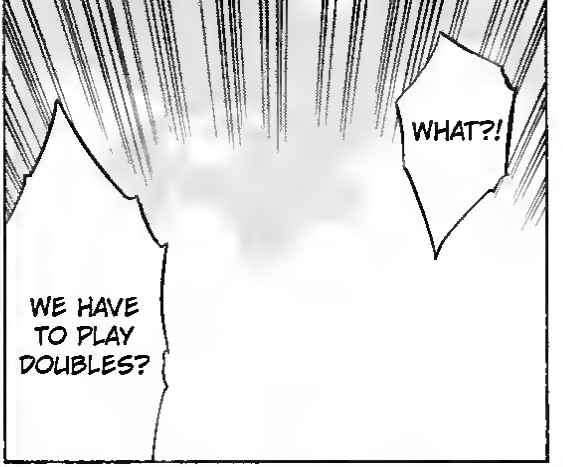

I'M SURE ...
IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS WITH YOU, SAWANATSU-SAN.
I WAS HAVING SO MUCH FUN.
MY HEART WAS BEATING SO FAST.

...
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH...
...TO CHANGE YOUR MIND...
...EH?
YOU DORK!
THA... THAT...
..HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO CHANGE MY MIND.
BESIDES.
STEP

BECAUSE NOW I'VE GOT MY MIND MADE UP!
THE SAME GOES FOR ME!
BUT...
AND SO...
PARTNERS!
...AN UNRELENTING BATTLE OF PERSUASION.
FROM THAT DAY FORTH, ASUNA LAUNCHED...
..OF PARTNERS.
THIS IS THE ERA...
PARTNER
PARTNER
PARTNER
WE'RE NOW LOOKING FOR PARTNERS
RENT!
PARTNER

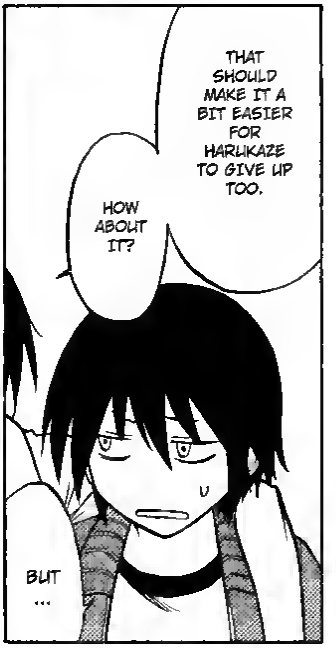
UNTIL ...
AAAAAH!
CUT IT OUT ALREADY!
HOW MANY HUNDREDS OF TIMES DO YOU THINK I'VE REFUSED YOU NOW?!
YOU DO THIS EVERY DAY! EVERY DAY!
THERE'S AN UPPER LIMIT TO HOW STUBBORN YOU CAN BE!
I ALREADY DECIDED!!
I WILL DEFINITELY FORM A PAIR WITH YOU, SAWANATSU-SAN!!!
HEY, SAWANATSU.
COME HERE A SECOND!
AHHH, JEEZ! WHAT A STUBBORN JERK!
SHIKI-SENPAI ..?
GOOD GRIEF ...
WE CAN'T EVEN PRACTICE LIKE THIS.
HONESTLY ...

JUST ONCE.
IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, YOU CAN STOP IMMEDIATELY AND I WON'T ASK AGAIN.


WHAT?!
WE HAVE TO PLAY DOUBLES?

YOU'RE ON MY CASE NOW TOO, SENPAI?!
I...
COME ON, CALM DOWN.
I'M NOT SAYING YOU HAVE TO KEEP DOING IT FOREVER.

PLEASE, JUST GIVE UP....
BE MY PARTNER
OLD AGE
DRAG
DRAG
YOU'VE SEEN HOW CLINGY SHE IS, RIGHT?
IF YOU AREN'T CAREFUL SHE MAY CHASE YOU UNTIL THE DAY YOU DIE.
!!!
?


THAT SHOULD MAKE IT A BIT EASIER FOR HARUKAZE TO GIVE UP TOO.
HOW ABOUT IT?
BUT ...

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET STARTED THEN.
THIS TIME WE'LL PLAY WITH NO TIME LIMITS.
KEEP ON GOING UNTIL YOU COLLAPSE
HUH? ARE YOU OUR ONLY OPPONENT, SHIKI-SENPAI?
WHAT ABOUT CHITOSE-SENPAI ...?
CAN'T HAVE A PROPER GAME AGAINST NEW PLAYERS WITHOUT SOME SORT OF HANDICAP.
DON'T HOLD BACK. GIVE ME ALL YOU'VE GOT.
TRUTH IS HAVING HER HERE WOULD BE THE REAL HANDICAP.
SA-SAWANATSU-SAN, LET'S TRY OUR HARDEST.
I WOULDN'T RESORT TO THAT.
DON'T SLACK OFF JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO DO IT.
IF WE'RE GONNA DO THIS, WE'RE GONNA WIN.
UH ...
UMM, WELL THEN.
PLAY BALL.

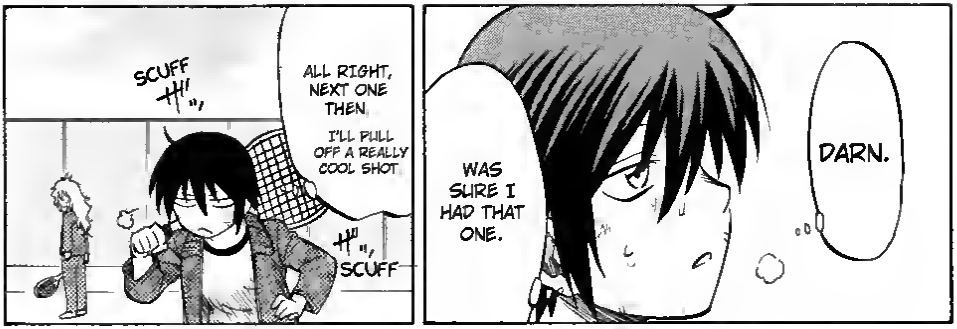
LET ME WARN YOU.
THIS IS THE ONLY HANDICAP YOU'RE GETTING.
FOR THE REST...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO HANDLE IT YOURSELVES.
...
HUH ...?
!!!
WHAM!

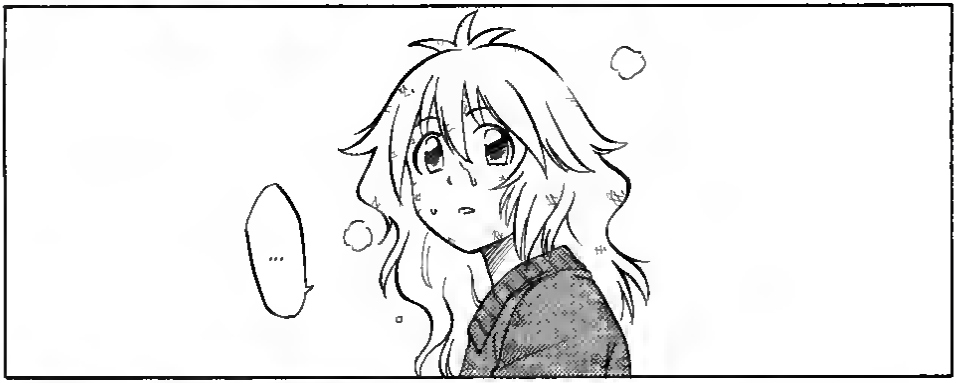
...
ER...
1 - 0
COME ON, HARUKAZE!!
AT LEAST SWING FOR IT!
AH... MY BAD.
JUST A LITTLE SURPRISED, IS ALL.
WE DON'T EVEN STAND A CHANCE IF YOU DON'T!
...
SO THIS...
...IS WHAT SOFT TENNIS IS REALLY LIKE
GULP
THOSE ARE SOME IMPRESSIVE REFLEXES.
NOW THEN...
HEH, NOT HALF BAD.
GOT IT!
SWABAM
DASH
EASY ...!
CAN YOU GET THIS ONE TOO?
?!

SA... SAWANATSU-SAN!
ERK ...!
!!!
CRASH
ドシャァ...

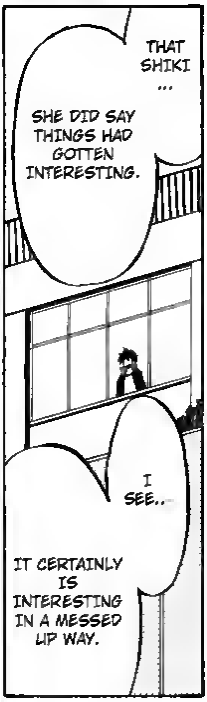
SA... SAWANATSU-SAN ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH ...
SO... SORRY ABOUT THAT.

... OUCH ...
... OW OW OW ...


SCUFF
ALL RIGHT, NEXT ONE THEN.
I'LL PULL OFF A REALLY COOL SHOT.
SCUFF
DARN.
I WAS SURE I HAD THAT ONE.

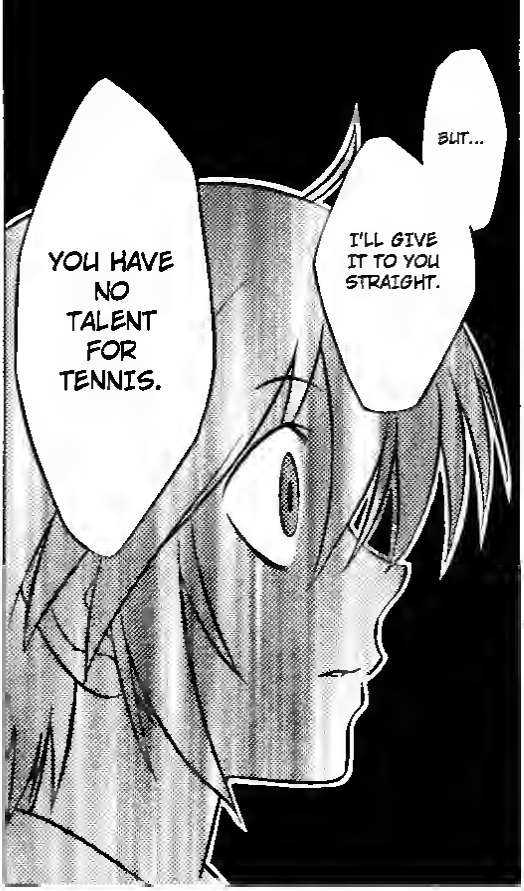

...

NOW THEN...
LET'S SEE WHAT SORT OF CHEMICAL REACTIONS WILL OCCUR


THAT SHIKI ...
SHE DID SAY THINGS HAD GOTTEN INTERESTING.
I SEE..
IT CERTAINLY IS INTERESTING IN A MESSED UP WAY.

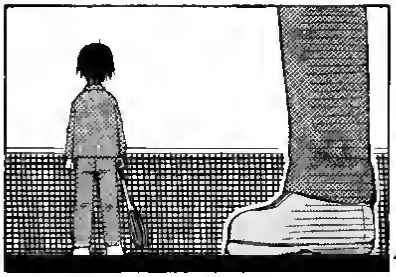
OH!
THEY'RE REALLY GOING AT IT.
HA HA.
WHAT'S THAT?

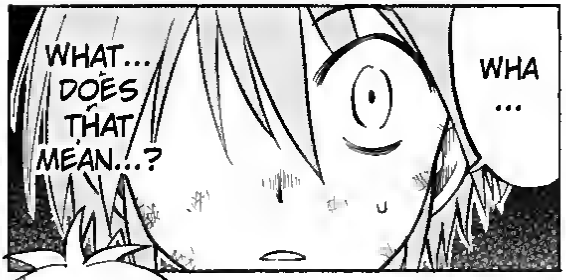
WHOOSH
OUT.
AH...!
THWACK
AAAGH! DAMMIT!!
WHY CAN'T I RETURN IT PROPERLY?!
...
AGAIN...
SAWANATSU-SAN'S MISTAKES HAVE REALLY STARTED TO STAND OUT.
THAT'S SIX TIMES IN A ROW
THE REASON YOU CAN'T RETURN IT?
THAT'S SIMPLE.
IT'S BECAUSE ALL YOU'RE DOING...
...IS GAMBLING.

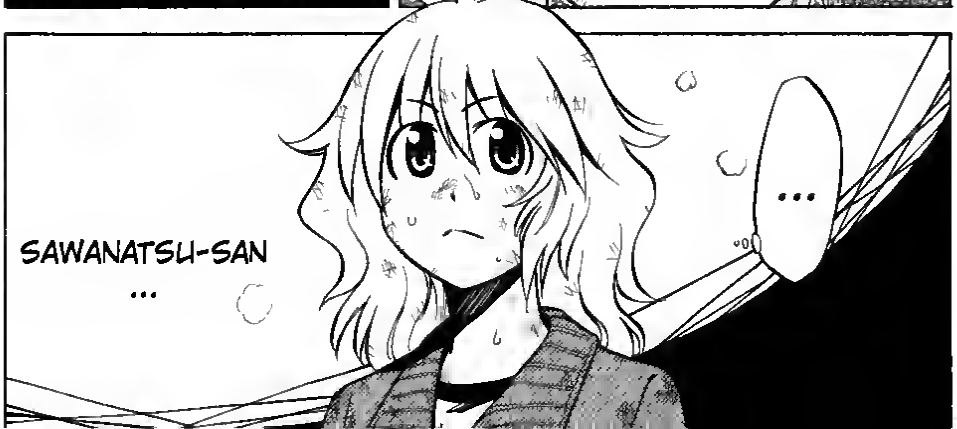

YOU HAVE NO TALENT FOR TENNIS.
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT.
BUT...

YOU'RE JUST SWINGING RECKLESSLY AT THE BALL.
SURE YOU'LL GET IT EVENTUALLY.
BUT HOW MANY POINTS WILL YOU HAVE LOST BY THEN?

SAWANATSU ...
YOUR PHYSICAL ABILITIES ARE IMPRESSIVE.




WHA ...
WHAT... DOES THAT MEAN...?


...
SAWANATSU-SAN ...

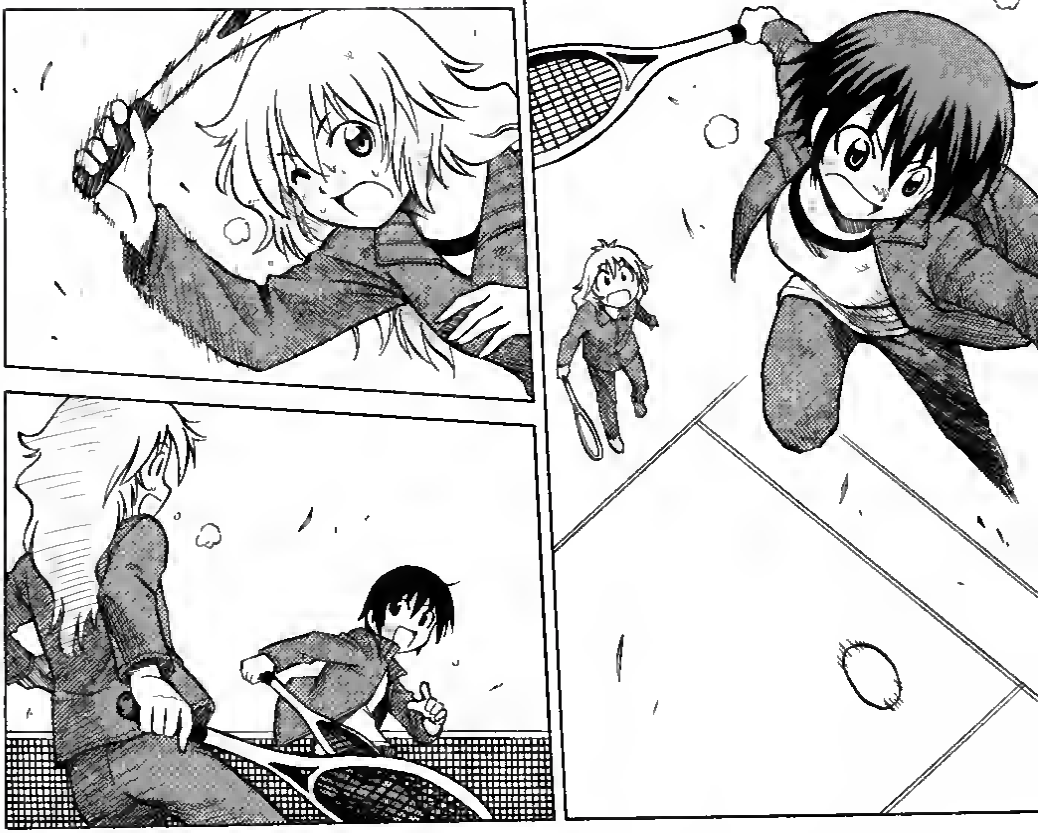
FOR THE TOURNAMENT WE'LL HAVE TO SWITCH KOTONE-CHAN'S PARTNER TO ELLIE-CHAN...
NO!
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?
IF HER MEMORIES STAY LOST LIKE THIS..
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST PAIRING UP WITH ELLIE, IT'S JUST...
I WON'T ACCEPT ANYONE ELSE.
MY PARTNER ...
...HAS TO BE ASUNA.

HGCK!
WHOOSH
WOO!
DARN ...
GOT PAST ME AGAIN.
I REALLY ...
YOU CAN'T GIVE UP!
IT'S NOT OVER JUST BECAUSE THEY GOT IT PAST YOU!
I'M STILL HERE.
I'LL SUPPORT YOU WITH ALL MY STRENGTH!

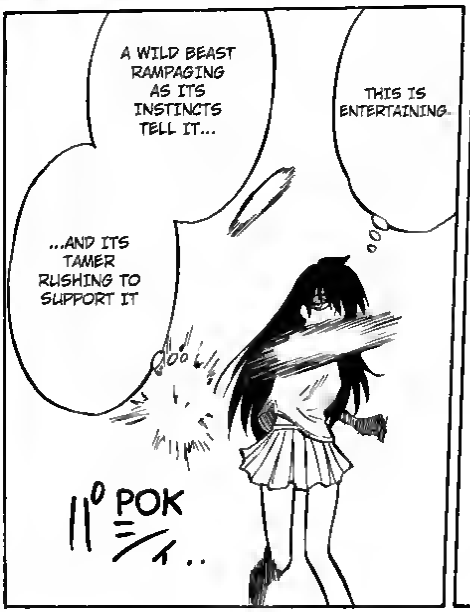
SO, YOU TOO, SAWANATSU-SAN.
HANG IN THERE WITH ALL OF YOUR STRENGTH!
THWACK
...
HA...
HARUKAZE ...
IF WE PUT OUR STRENGTH TOGETHER, WE CAN TAKE IT BACK!
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU FAIL.
...

AS SUCH, IT'S AS IF YOU HAVE NO SKILL IN TENNIS WHATSOEVER.
YOU EXCEL IN POWER AND INSTANTANEOUS FORCE BUT YOUR ATTENTION TO YOUR SURROUNDINGS IS SEVERELY LACKING.
HOWEVER...
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE FIGURED IT OUT.
THAT'S RIGHT, SAWANATSU.
...YOUR POTENTIAL AS AN INDIVIDUAL.
THAT IS ONLY...
OH, PLEASE.
HOW MANY TIMES I FAIL?
HOW VERY GENEROUS OF YOU.
WITH THE RIGHT PARTNER TO SUPPORT YOU...
...YOUR POTENTIAL IS PRACTICALLY INFINITE.
HARU-KAZE!!
!

SO IF I MUCK THINGS UP 100 TIMES...
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?!
OF COURSE, FOR THOSE 100 TIMES...
GRIN
I'LL SUPPORT YOU WITH ALL MY STRENGTH!
ALL RIGHT, YOU SAID IT!!
THEN I WON'T HOLD BACK. I'M GOING ON A RAMPAGE.
GET READY, HARUKAZE!
OK!!
THAT'S JUST WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR, SAWANATSU-SAN!
SWISH

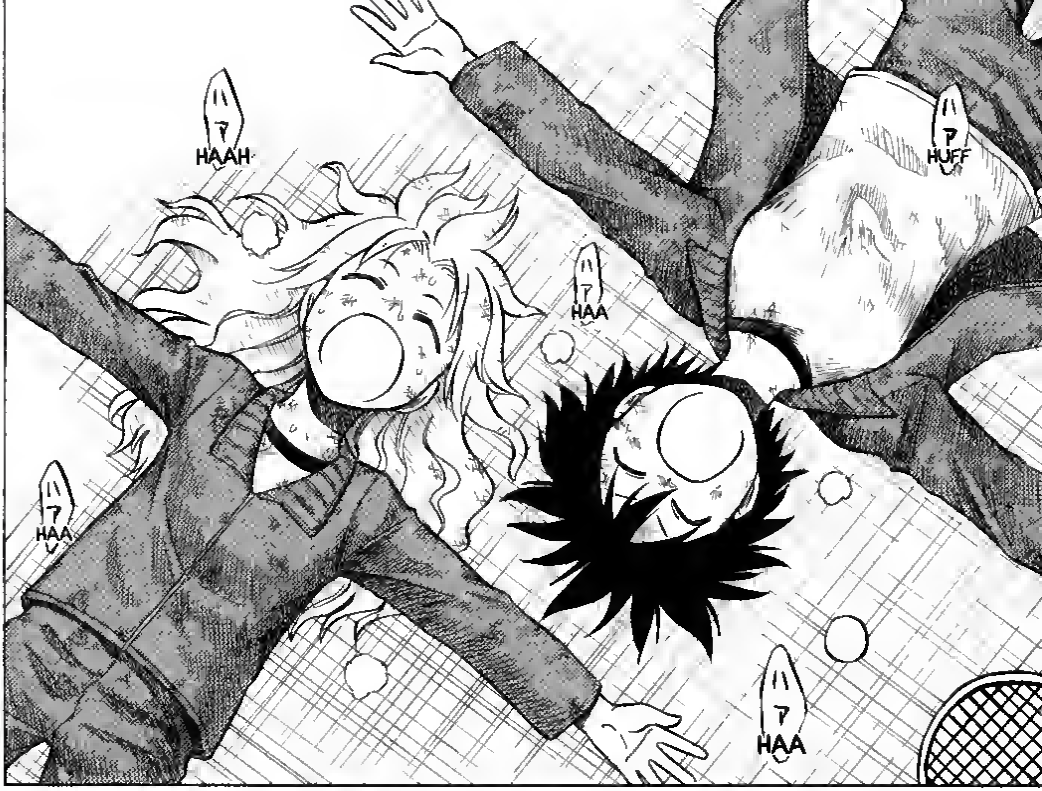


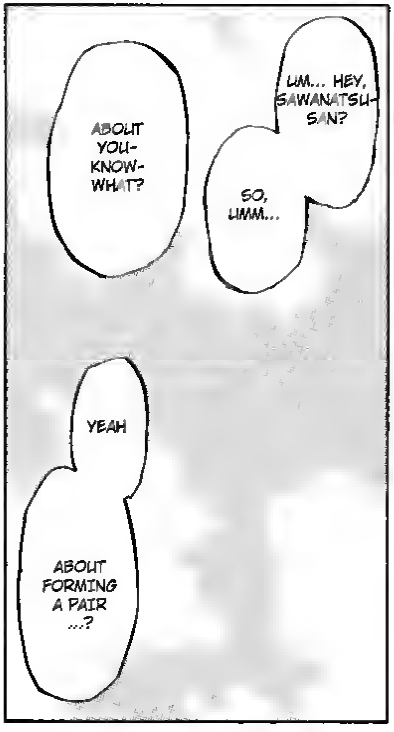
AT A GLANCE ...
...THEY SEEM HORRIBLE INEFFICIENT.
BUT...


A WILD BEAST RAMPAGING AS ITS INSTINCTS TELL IT...
...AND ITS TAMER RUSHING TO SUPPORT IT
THIS IS ENTERTAINING.
POK

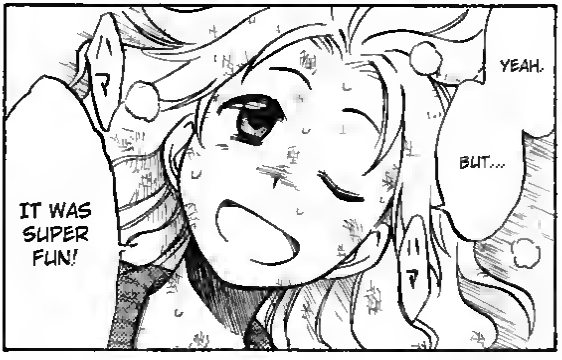
HUH...?
IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE BETTER THAN ME...?

...IN HARMONY WITH EACH OTHER.
IN REALITY, THEY'RE ALMOST ASTONISHINGLY ...
TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE...
...IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR A PAIR TO WORK SO WELL TOGETHER.
HAAH
HAA


HAAH
HUFF
HAA
HAA
HAA


UM... HEY, SAWANATSU-SAN?
SO, UMM...
ABOUT YOU-KNOW-WHAT?
YEAH
ABOUT FORMING A PAIR ...?

HUFF
DARN IT...!
IN THE END WE COULDN'T TAKE EVEN A SINGLE POINT.
HUFF

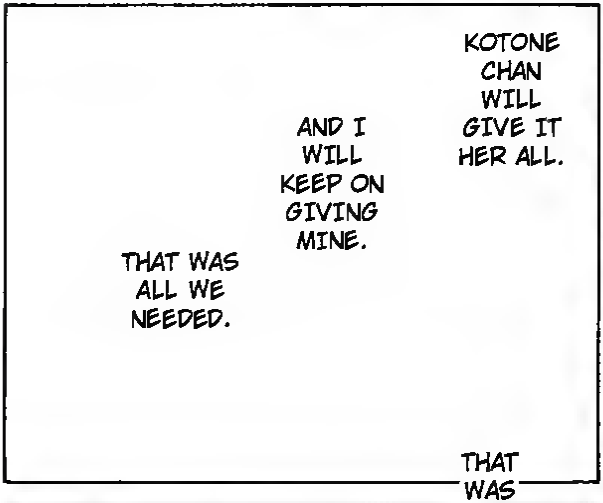

YEAH.
BUT...
IT WAS SUPER FUN!

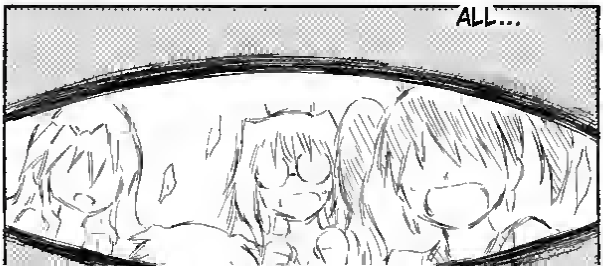
FINE.
THERE'S NO HELPING IT.
I'LL GO ALONG WITH YOU.
...!!
RE- REALLY?!
WELL...
IT BEATS BEING CONTINUOUSLY PESTERED ABOUT IT FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS.
がばっ JUMP
SA...
SAWANATSU -SA--!
HOWEVER!!?
I EXPECT YOU TO ALWAYS GIVE IT YOUR ALL.
OTHERWISE I MAY GET LOST ALONG THE WAY.

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, PARTNER.
...I WON'T TRUST MY BACK TO ANYONE ELSE.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS ...
BECAUSE I'VE ALREADY DECIDED.

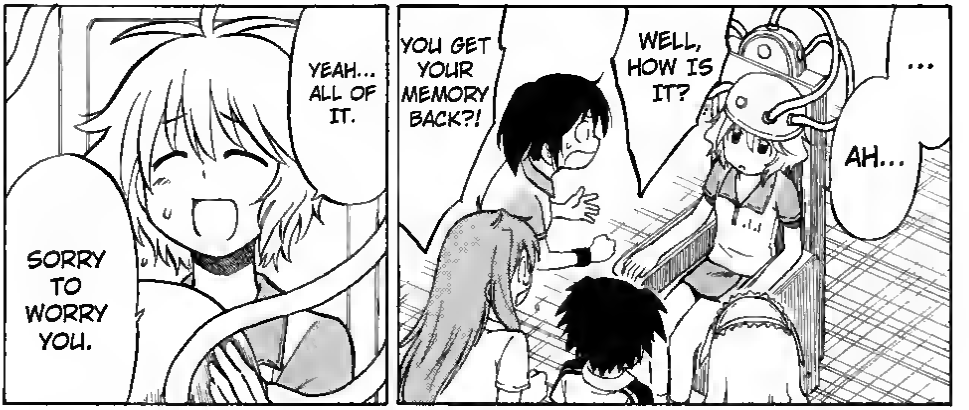
...
KOTONE-CHAN?
THAT'S HOW IT WAS, RIGHT ...

...
I SEE ...

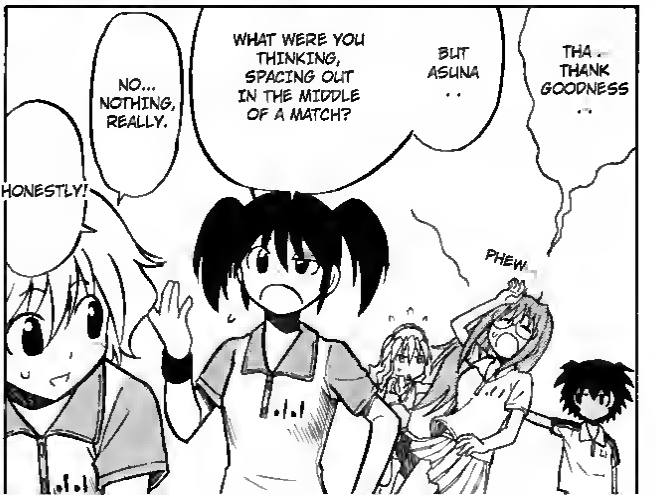

KOTONE CHAN WILL GIVE IT HER ALL.
AND I WILL KEEP ON GIVING MINE.
THAT WAS ALL WE NEEDED.


THAT WAS ALL...

ARE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?
ASUNA-CHAN!!
ASUNA!


YEAH... ALL OF IT.
SORRY TO WORRY YOU.
YOU GET YOUR MEMORY BACK?!
WELL, HOW IS IT?
...
AH...

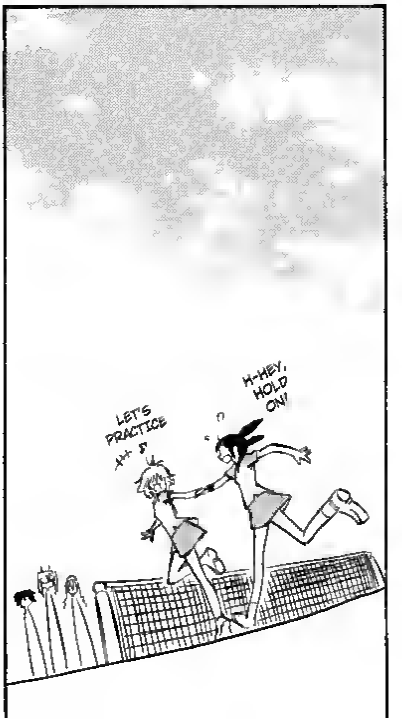
ALWAYS FOCUS WITH ALL YOU'VE GOT DURING MATCHES.
!


NO... NOTHING, REALLY.
HONESTLY!
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, SPACING OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF A MATCH?
BUT ASUNA..
THA. THANK GOODNESS...
PHEW.

NOT A THING.
KOTONE-CHAN.
♪

I SAY SOMETHING STRANGE ..?
WHA...? WHAT IS IT?
?

NO...


H-HEY, HOLD ON!
LET'S PRACTICE ♪

THE NEXT DAY.
HEY, KURUSU.
I WANNA TAKE A LITTLE TRIP TO THE PAST TOO.
IT'S ONE-USE ONLY, SO YOU CAN'T.
AS YOU CAN SEE
使用済
UHHH? >.<
ONE-USE?!
THAT'S ACTUALLY KIND OF AMAZING.

SIGN. USED

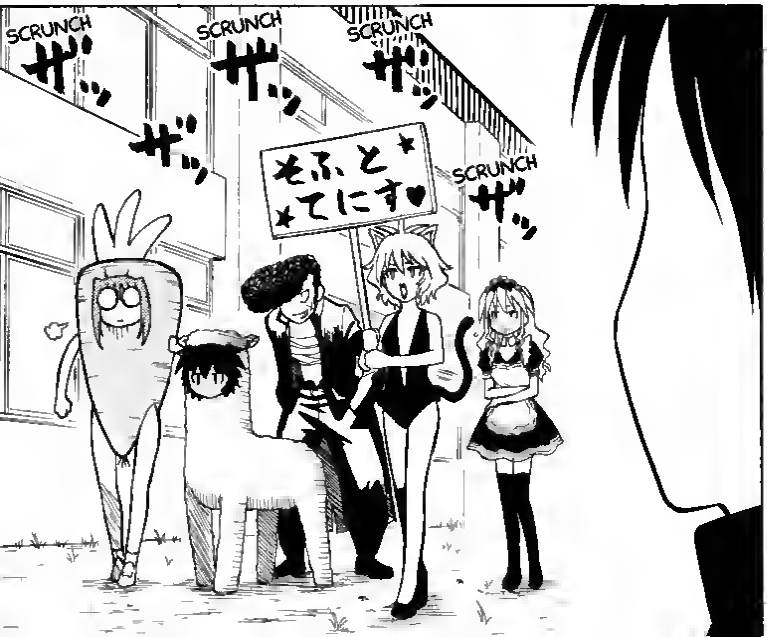
第20ゲーム しんかんっ

GAME 20 – NEWCOMER

WOOO!
GAME SET.
GAME COUNT, 3 – 2.
TEAM ASUNA-KOTONE WINS.
GOOD WORK.
AH, ELLIE-CHAN.
SORRY FOR ALWAYS MAKING YOU THE REFEREE.
NO.
IT IS FUN TO WATCH ALL OF YOU PLAY.
YAY, WE WON, WE WON. ♪
IT FEELS LIKE EVERYONE'S GETTING BETTER AS WE GET CLOSER TO THE TOURNAMENT.
JUST RETURNING KURUSU-CHAN'S BALLS TAKES EVERYTHING I'VE GOT NOW.
CHITOSE-SAN'S THE SAME AS EVER THOUGH.
NO WAY!!

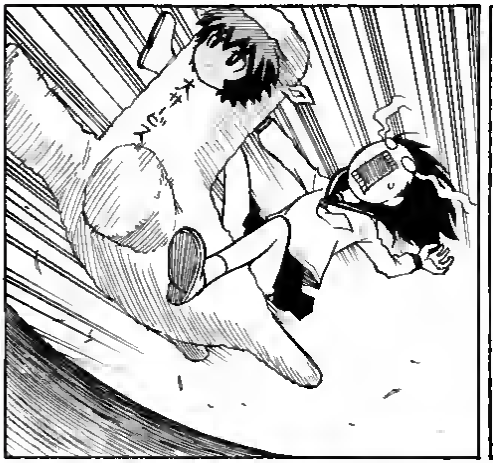
...
HEY, ELLIE.
DON'T YOU WANT TO TRY DOUBLES TOO?
HUH ...?
YOU'RE GOING TO THE TROUBLE OF PLAYING SOFT TENNIS AFTER ALL.
WOULDN'T IT BE A SHAME NOT TO ENJOY THE BEST PART OF IT?
DOUBLES...?
...
RIGHT?
WELL THEN!
IT'S TIME TO HUNT FOR A NEW MEMBER. ♪
PA-PARA-PAAA!

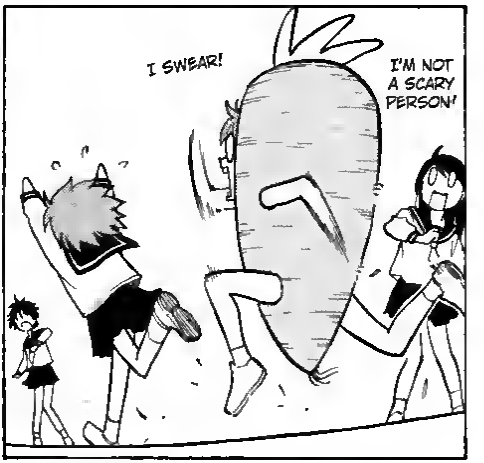
IF WE HAD ONE MORE PAIR...
...SHIRATAMA'S HANDICAP IN TEAM GAMES WOULD DISAPPEAR.
RIGHT?
UMM...
THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA
UMM... IF IT WILL BE OF HELP TO EVERYONE ...
I...
WELL, THAT SETTLES IT.
...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, ELLIE-CHAN?
THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM.
SORRY FOR SAYING THIS AFTER I WAS THE ONE TO BRING IT UP
THERE'S AN ISSUE OF WHETHER ANYONE WILL JOIN THE CLUB AT THIS POINT.
I'D THINK MOST PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY CHOSEN A CLUB.
.I.I
!
AH ...
...



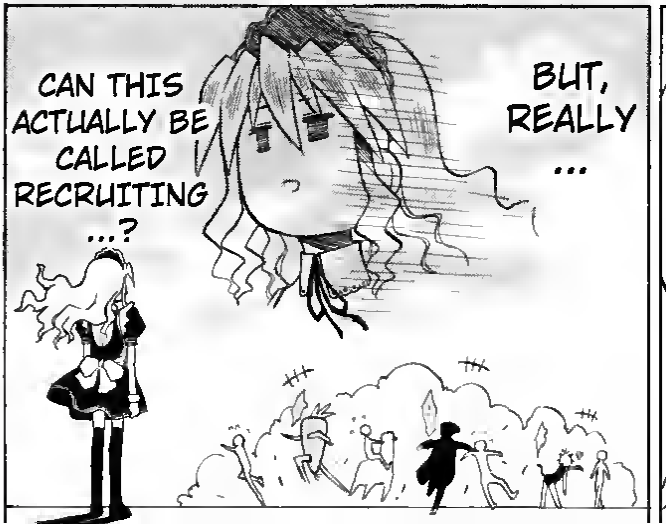
SIGN: SOFT TENNIS

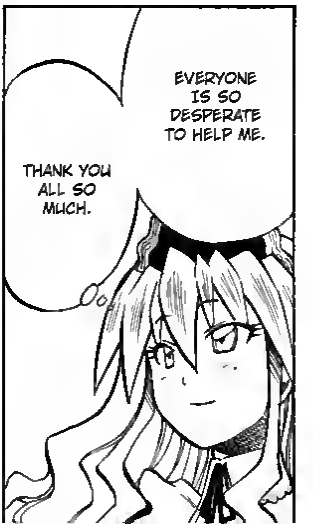
IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS





KURUSU'S OUTFIT: HUGE DISCOUNT





CLUB MEMBER HUNTING TEAM-A
AH.
I HAVE TO TRY MY BEST TOO...
THAT GIRL.
COULD SHE BE INTERESTED IN JOINING ...?
OKAY.
じっ…
STARE…
MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE WE CAPTURE HER!
CHASE HER DOWN! EVERYONE SURROUND HER!
AH!
SHE'S MAKING A RUN FOR IT!
DASH
JOLT
RUN
RUN
RUN
RUN
RUN
RUN
HEY, THERE'S ONE HIDING OVER THERE!
I WILL CALL OUT TO HER GENTLY...

RUNNING FOR HER LIFE
はあ HAAH
はあ HAAH
はあ HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
はあ HAAH
はあ HAAH
SIS...
I...I CAN'T ...
IT'S TOO MUCH FOR ME.
!!!
SCRUNCH

GASP!
...
!!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
AH ...
AHH ...!
HEH HEH HEH!
SCRUNCH
SCRUNCH
THERE'S NO NEED TO RUN.
YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO JOIN, DON'T YOU...?
HUFF
HUFF
JUST GIVE UP AND BE TRUE TO YOUR...
RIGHT?

SHE...
GRIN
SHE THREW HERSELF INTO THE RIVER?!
SWISH
WHA--
!!!
NO...
SH-SHE'D GO THAT FAR TO GET AWAY FROM US...?!
THAT'S NOT IT, KOTONE-CHAN.
SPLOOSH
LOOK!!
THAT GIRL JUST SLIPPED ON THIS!!
GLUB
GLUB
A BANANA!!
ARGH, THAT LOOK SHE GAVE ME MADE ME THINK OTHERWISE.
AND SHE SWIMS LIKE AN ANCHOR!!

IS THIS OKAY?
I'M SO SORRY.
はあ HAA...
I'M...
はあ HAAH...
SORRY... TO CAUSE YOU... SO MUCH TROUBLE ...
はあ HAAH..
AH...
IF YOU WERE WATCHING US, DOES THAT MEAN...
THAT'S...
...IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME YOU WANT TO JOIN...?
WELL...
UH... UMM...
SO, THEN ...
ALLOW US TO APOLOGIZE AS WELL.
WELL... WE MAY HAVE BEEN A BIT TOO AGGRESSIVE.

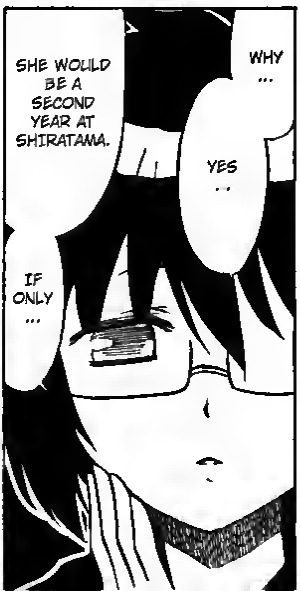
?
YOUR BIG SISTER?
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
YOUR BIG SISTER WANTS TO JOIN?
NO.
THAT'S NOT IT...

NO ...
NOT ME...
MY BIG SISTER ...

I DON'T QUITE GET IT.
IS THIS SISTER OF YOURS A STUDENT HERE?

MY SISTER WOULD WANT ME TO DO IT.
UMM ...
PLAY SOFT TENNIS, THAT IS.

HUH. A SUDDEN TURN INTO OCCULT TERRITORY.
...SHE WERE ALIVE.
THAT'S ALL...
JUMP
ビクッ
BWOO
ゴゴ
OSH
ゴゴ

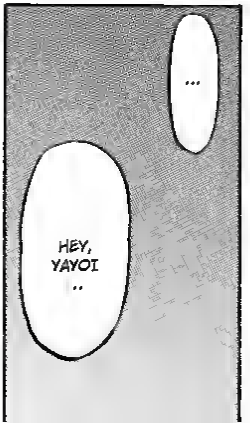

WHY ...
YES ..
SHE WOULD BE A SECOND YEAR AT SHIRATAMA.
IF ONLY ...

INTENSE PASSION
I SEE...
SHE DIED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT TWO YEARS AGO?
YES.
MY SISTER LOVED THE SOFT TENNIS CLUB.
THAT DAY SHE WAS ON THE WAY TO A TOURNAMENT, AND--
I'M...
I'M SO MOVED!
!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD FOR YOU
...
YOU! WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
HUH ...?
HI-HIRAGISHI YAYOI...
OKAY, YAYOI.
I AM INTENSELY MOVED!
CARRYING ON THE WISHES OF YOUR DEPARTED SISTER...
...YOU OFFER YOUR LIFE TO SOFT TENNIS.

I... I CAN'T...
JUST DO IT!
LET ME FEEL THE STRENGTH OF YOUR SISTER'S ...
WHAAAAA?!
I WANT YOU TO SLAP ME IN THE FACE RIGHT NOW!
BRING IT ON!!
ARE ... ARE YOU OKAY?
PLEASE, HANG IN THERE!
THAT WAS A PUNCH, NOT A SLAP.
NNAAAAAAAARGH
... INTENSE--
TAKE THAT!
WHAMMO

THERE ARE ALWAYS EXCEPTIONS
WHAT, YAYOI-CHAN?!
YOU'VE DONE SOFT TENNIS BEFORE?
AH... YES.
ALTHOUGH REALLY, I WAS ONLY TAGGING ALONG WITH MY SISTER BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
WOW, IT'S RARE TO FIND SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN DOING IT SINCE ELEMENTARY.
THAT HELPS.
THE TOURNAMENT IS COMING UP SOON AND THIS SAVES US THE TROUBLE OF TEACHING YOU THE BASICS
AND MORE IMPORTANT ...
TENNIS IS A SPORT WHERE EXPERIENCE IS EVERYTHING, ISN'T IT?
♪
RIGHT?
UH-HUH ...
SHOULD SOMEONE LIKE YOU BE SAYING THAT..?

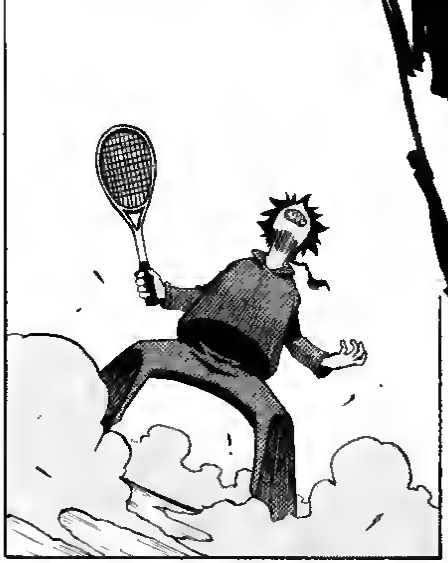
HIDDEN POWER

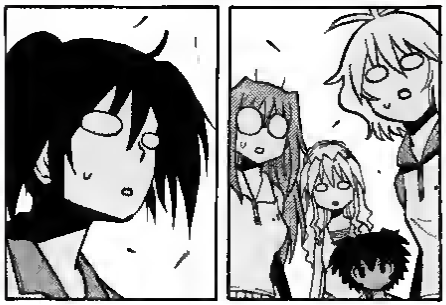


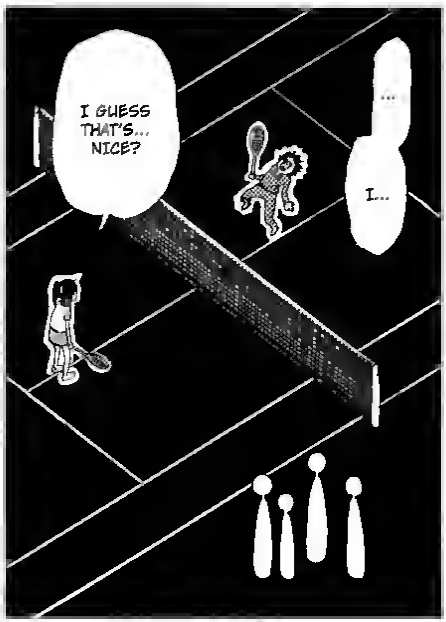
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
!!!
THEN DO YOU AT LEAST HAVE SOME SORT OF UNIQUE PLAY-STYLE, OR SOMETHING?
I...
I PLAYED FOR THREE YEARS STARTING IN MY SECOND YEAR OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
YOU'RE... SURE YOU HAVE PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS?
I SEE...
SEE, SINCE I WAS A KID I'VE HAD A STRONG SPIRITUAL SENSE.
SO, WELL... HOW DO I SAY THIS.?
OH ... NO.
I CAN'T USUALLY DO THIS.
?
WHY DIDN'T YOU PULL OUT THOSE MOVES BEFORE?
LIKE A BOXER
WHOA! WHAT WAS THAT?!
YOU'RE PRETTY SPEEDY!
THERE'S SEVERED HEAD FLYING AROUND THE COURT?!
GACK--!
...IS MY BODY?
WHERE
BWOOSH
I CAN ONLY REACT LIKE THAT WHEN A DISEMBODIED HEAD COMES FLYING AT ME.
TEE HEE!
WHOOPS, THERE'S ANOTHER

THE HIDDEN LAUGH
I'LL ALWAYS BE A KLUTZ AND SLOWER THAN A TURTLE...
HAAH
THIS... THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR ME...
YOU IDIOT!
HAA
YOU'LL NEVER INHERIT YOUR SISTER'S WILL LIKE THAT!
STAND UP! GET ON YOUR FEET!
IT MEANS SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE THE ONE TO CARRY ON FOR HER!!
IT MEANS SOMETHING!
PFFT!
HEH HEH
MEANING?
IN YAYOI CARRYING ON...?
SHOOM
OH, PUH-LEEZE.
YOU PRATTLE ON LIKE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...
AS IF.
NOT ONE BIT.

...!!!
SHIVER
...IS ME, OBVIOUSLY.
THE ONLY ONE WHO WILL CARRY ON MY WILL...
YOU FOOL!
WHOA!
KA-POW
HYAH HAH!
AHHH!
THIS UPLIFTING FEELING AND SENSE OF RELEASE...
SO...
SOFT...
BAM
THIS IS IT! THIS IS THE FEELING!
HYAH HA HA HA!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
GUH..!
WHAT THE HELL?!
A SPLIT PERSONALITY ...?!





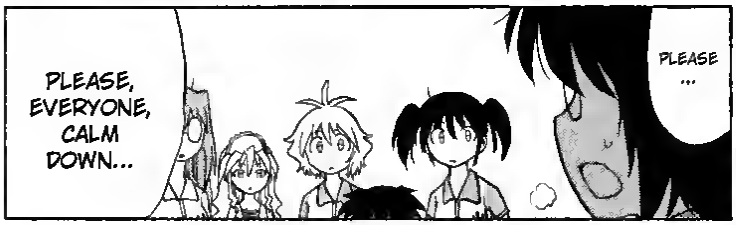

I GUESS THAT'S... NICE?
...
I...

SOFT TENNIS ...!!
I LOVE IT!♡
SHWABAAM

WHAA?!
YAYOI?!
DON'T LUMP ME TOGETHER WITH HER.
I'M UZUKI.
UH
HEY, YAYOI ...?
YOU GET HIT ON THE HEAD OR SOMETHING ...?
HUH?
THE FUNKY ELDER SISTER...
...HIDDEN IN THE KLUTZY SLOW-AS-A-TURTLE LITTLE SISTER.
SELF-PROCLAIMED GENIUS SOFT TENNIS PLAYER..
...HIRAGISHI UZUKI
BOOM!
HER SISTER ...?
...?!
HER...

STO--!
HEY, YOU PUNKS!
CUT... CUT IT...

YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOUR HEAD STRAIGHT, YAYOI-CHAN!
THAT'S RIGHT! I KNOW IT'S HARD BUT...
GET IT TOGETHER, YAYOI!
YOUR SISTER IS DEAD!
WHOA!

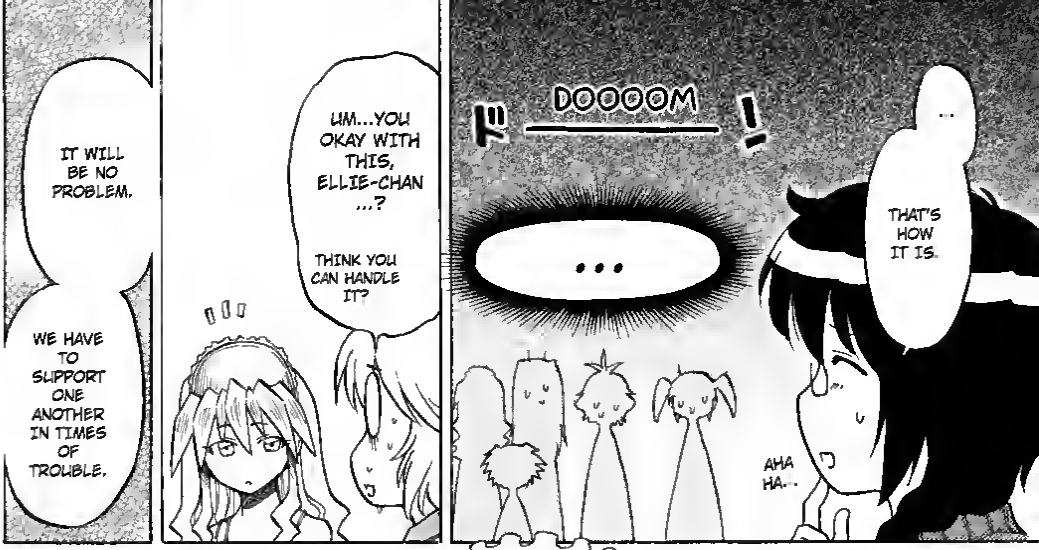

PLEASE, EVERYONE, CALM DOWN...
PLEASE ...

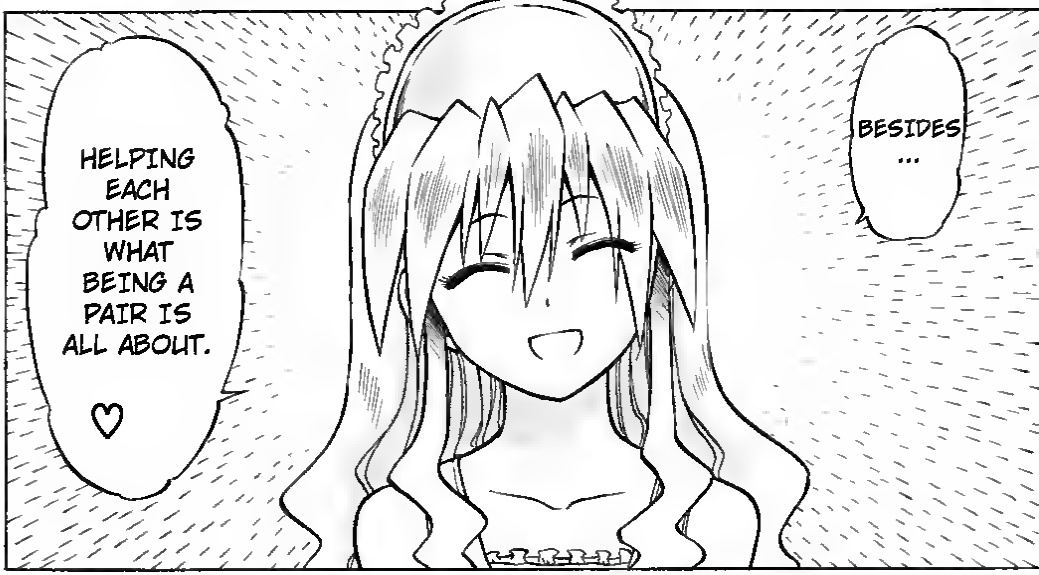
CUT IT OUT!!
!!!

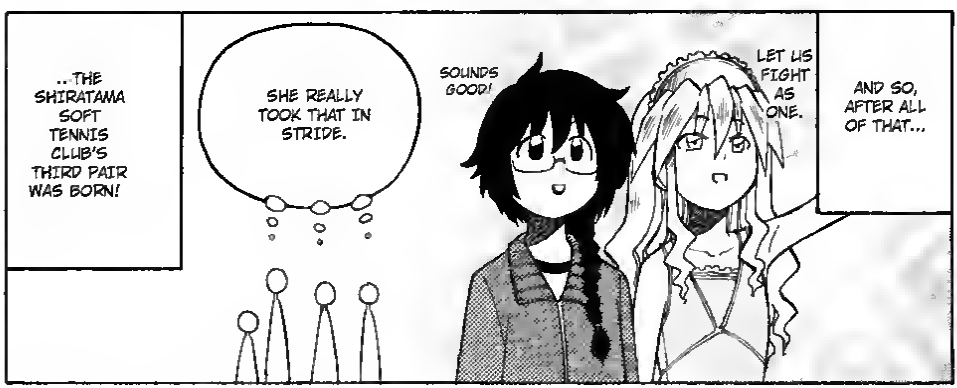
I... I'LL GIVE YOU...
...A PROPER EXPLANATION

MY SISTER UZUKI DEFINITELY DIED TWO YEARS AGO.
HOWEVER...
HER SOUL STILL LIVES ON WITHIN ME.

...
I SEE...
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS
HER LINGERING ATTACHMENTS TO THIS WORLD WERE INTENSE.
SHE CAN'T MOVE ON UNTIL SHE SETTLES THINGS WITH THAT PERSON.
MY SISTER PERISHED IN AN ACCIDENT RIGHT BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT WHERE SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO SETTLE THINGS WITH HER RIVAL
A MESSAGE?
YES.
UMM...
THIS IS A MESSAGE TO ALL OF YOU FROM MY SISTER.
ALSO ...
THAT ...
THAT MUST BE HARD...
YOU DON'T LOOK TERRIBLY ATHLETIC
GLOOM ズーン!
BUT MY SISTER CAN ONLY COME OUT FOR A LIMITED TIME.
I NEED TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE THINGS AT LEAST SOMEWHAT BY MYSELF.
JUST TRY SCREWING IT UP!
I'LL CURSE EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR ALL ETERNITY.
YOU'RE ALL GOING TO BRING ME TO THE STAGE FOR MY SHOWDOWN.


IT WILL BE NO PROBLEM.
WE HAVE TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.
UM...YOU OKAY WITH THIS, ELLIE-CHAN ...?
THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT?
DOOOOM
...
THAT'S HOW IT IS.
AHA HA...


HELPING EACH OTHER IS WHAT BEING A PAIR IS ALL ABOUT.
♡
BESIDES ...


..THE SHIRATAMA SOFT TENNIS CLUB'S THIRD PAIR WAS BORN!
SHE REALLY TOOK THAT IN STRIDE.
SOUNDS GOOD!
LET US FIGHT AS ONE.
AND SO, AFTER ALL OF THAT...

AFTERWORD

NOW THAT THE SHIRATAMA MEMBERS HAVE ALL GATHERED, I THINK I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT YOU WITH THE ORIGINAL PLAN FOR EACH CHARACTER.
IT'S TOTALLY NOT BECAUSE I COULDN'T COME UP WITH JOKES.
IT'S BEEN AWHILE, IT'S ADUCHI AGAIN.
HOW DID YOU LIKE "SOFTENNI" VOLUME 3?

CHITOSE

INITIALLY SHE HAD SHORT HAIR, SO SHE ALMOST LOOKS LIKE THE CURRENT ASUNA WITH GLASSES.

KOTONE

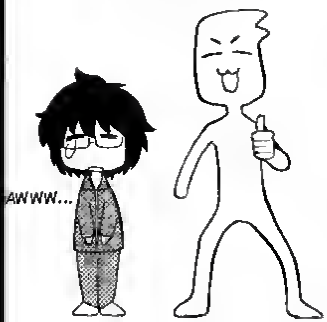
SCRAPPED BECAUSE IT LOOKED TOO ON-THE-NOSE. SOMETHING ABOUT A CERTAIN PART...

ASUNA

SHE'S PRACTICALLY KOTONE. I WAS STILL THINKING OF HER AS A LITTLE SISTER CHARACTER AT THIS POINT.

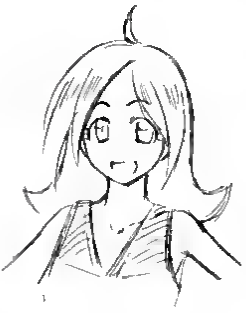
YAYOI

... LOOKS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME. SO I'M LEAVING HERS OUT!!



ELLIE

FAR MORE ACTIVE-LOOKING THAN SHE IS NOW. I'M VERY GLAD I DIDN'T GO WITH THIS VERSION. YES.



KURUSU

EVEN ROUNDER THAN SHE IS NOW. SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE A LITTLE PUPPY, BUT NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, ALL I SEE NOW IS A CRAB